

3-27-1997

## Casco Bay Weekly : 27 March 1997

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Casco Bay  
Weekly

# RENTERS' RIGHTS

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MAR 27, 1997





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# Talk A CONVERSATION WITH GARY BERENSON



**"We just got a new rabbi; he's a little more strict than some of the others. He's orthodox. He just abides by the [Jewish] laws and he sends a man in to watch us cut the meat all the time."**

If you need to stock up for Passover, you might want to pay Gary Berenson a little visit. He and his parents, Barbara and Jack, keep their Penny Wise Deli on Ocean Avenue, stocked to the max with almost every kosher edible under the sun. We're talking Manishevitz borscht and macaroons — coconut, chocolate, chocolate chip; Manishevitz matzos — egg, whole wheat, plain; 32-ounce jars of Mother's gefilte fish and matzo ball soup; Streit's potato pancake mix; and a cold deli case stuffed with potato and beef knishes, Zion salami and bologna, Hebrew National hot dogs ... enough already. The Berensons opened the little kosher shop (reportedly the only one of its kind in Portland) 45 years ago in the same spot it stands today. Gary, a 47-year-old bachelor, was caught working the deli solo the other day. And an unusually busy one it was, he said: Passover's

only three and a half weeks away. **Do you get a lot of Jews in here?** Yeah, we do, we get them from all over the city and throughout the state of Maine, too, and as far as Bangor. We even have people come from Canada when they're here in the summertime. **Is this a Jewish neighborhood?** It used to be a Jewish neighborhood. Now the whole population has spread throughout the city. The community doesn't seem to be what it used to be, I don't think. They're just not close anymore. **Other things have changed, too. Forty-five years ago, your parents didn't have to compete with the Christy's of the world. What do you do to stay alive?** We just have to come up with new gimmicks — just

getting people in with the sandwiches, giving different names to the sandwiches. **Like what?** My political sandwich was the Ross Perot sandwich. That was on wheat bread, with turkey, roast beef, cole slaw, lettuce and tomato. I did that because I liked him as a businessman and so I made the best deli-type sandwich I could. **What's the worst thing that's ever happened here?** I suppose the biggest thing is, just last month, some kids walked out with some beer.

Interview by Sharon Bass; photo by Colin Malakie

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## outta my Way

ELIZABETH PEAVEY

### Fashion victim

No one could be more surprised than I to find myself wedged between Mike Chitwood and Herb Adams (aren't you dying to find out what the rest of this sentence is?) in *CBW's* Best of Portland's "Local personality with the most interesting wardrobe" category. I didn't realize anyone thought I had a personality.

The first thing I did was sprint to the mirror. I ran my hands down my salsa-encrusted sweater. (Those lids can be tough to get off.) My hair was balled in a tangled lump halfway down the back of my head. My leggings bagged at the knees, my wool socks had holes in the heels.

Oh yes, I was stylin'. I mean, I looked fine. So fine.

"Hey, gorgeous," I said to myself. "Why not share some of your fashion secrets with the world?" And because I find it easier to cede to the woman in the mirror than to argue, I've decided to dedicate this column to what my "interesting" look is all about.

*CBW* referred to me as Elizabeth "Maybe I'll wear something black today" Peavey. (You guys crack me up, you really do.) Yes, most of my clothes are black. Big deal. Yet, for this, I take an enormous amount of grief.

For example, I made the mistake a month ago of having a few people over. My friend Joyce, who often refers to me as "Beetlejuice" because of my clothes and sunny disposition, insisted my guests inspect my closet. She opened the door, they all pointed and laughed. I didn't see the humor in my neat, four-foot (I just went and measured) row of black shirts, jackets, sweaters and skirts on black hangers. Jack took a picture. Andy said he felt like he was teetering on the edge of the abyss. Tom grabbed the sleeve of a colorful blender-drink dress that had been crammed in the back, held it out and wagged it, saying,

"Help me! Help me!"

My mother, a stylish and elegant woman, has given up. (For a while, I was getting pretty friendly with the girls at the Talbots return counter.) On a recent overnight retreat, we were deciding whether or not to dress casually for dinner. She remarked, "I don't know what difference it makes. You'll either wear something short and black or long and black." I looked down. I was, indeed, wearing something short and black, and the outfit I had planned on wearing was also short and black. It saved me the bother of having to change my clothes. And because I still bore traces of eyeliner from the day before, I was ready to go.

**I don't waste good moping time trying to find the right stockings to match an eggplant sweater and a seafoam skirt.**

Those who don't know me often misinterpret my black-clad look. Some assume it's a netherworld uniform. This is not the case. I'm a good girl, I is. I ask not to be lead into temptation and be delivered from evil on a regular basis — I just wish God would check His e-mail a little more frequently. Some probably think I'm stuck in the '80s, when all-black was à la mode. Or that I'm in perpetual mourning for my lost and wasted youth. Others might think I wear black because it's purportedly "slimming." (That's chick mag talk for "hide your big butt with this sassy oversized black tee.") I have, on occasion, been mistaken for a go-go dancer for Twisted Roots. And I am sure there are those who think my black wardrobe is existential in nature, representing the uniqueness and

isolation of the individual in a hostile/indifferent universe.

Now, if I actually put that much thought into what I wear, I wouldn't always look like I just got dumped, would I?

It has been reported that Albert Einstein's wardrobe consisted of multiple articles of identical clothing. In this way, he never had to waste valuable thinking time choosing an outfit. I am very much like Einstein in this area (a further sign of my genius). I, too, have a lot on my mind and have developed a pretty successful formula for dressing. I get up in the morning, load on the base (black turtleneck and leggings) and build from there. In this way, I don't waste good moping time trying to find the right stockings to match an eggplant sweater and a seafoam skirt and can concentrate, instead, on more important matters, like staring out the window.

The fact is, I dress in black because I'm a lazy slob. I am forever spilling, ripping, snagging, staining and wiping my mouth on my clothes. Black is forgiving. Black always matches itself. Black makes shopping easy and laundry day a breeze. And that, in essence, is the uninteresting secret to my interesting look.

And while I'm on this readers' poll roll, I must confess I was even more surprised to be listed in this year's *Maine Sunday Telegram's* "best Maine author" category. Some guy named King (whom I bet has never been wedged between Mike Chitwood and Herb Adams) beat me by a couple votes — OK, 238, to be exact. Try as I might to get a recount, no one at The Portland Newspapers would return my calls.

Now that I've made a showing, victory is the only thing that will satisfy me. Looks like I'm going to have to start a little earlier for next year's best-of issues if I'm going to move up in the standing. Anyone got a comb?

*Elizabeth Peavey, whose column runs biweekly, actually dresses in Brooks Brothers suits, frilly blouses and sensible pumps when behind closed doors. Keep it under your hats.*

## Appetite for Kings

Legislative Democrats ate Angus King alive during the recent round of budget maneuvering, and found the independent governor easy to swallow. In fact, King seemed to be a willing participant in his own devouring, serving himself up in a thin broth of ideas, little more than a garnish in a budget menu devised by the majority party.

Much has been made of the way the Dems cooked the Republicans' goose by forcing through a partisan budget before April 1. By doing that, the donkey party didn't need to set a place at the table for the GOP, since budgets passed more than 90 days prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1 can be approved by a simple majority. Those passed with less than 90 days remaining on the kitchen timer must muster support from two-thirds of legislators. There are legal reasons for all these rules, but it's not something you'd want explained to you on a full stomach.

The only person who could have spoiled the Democrats' recipe was King. The governor had to be convinced to sign the Dem budget, which differed in significant ways from the shopping list King introduced in January. A clever chef would have withheld the essential ingredient of his signature long enough to exact some concessions. A master gastronome would have played the two party's favorite flavors off against each other, mixing up a fiscal casserole that included not only a budget crafted to the governor's tastes, but promises of future cooperation for dessert.

Creating that kind of a meal deal requires a touch as delicate as a soufflé. Instead, King made a hash of it. Essentially, Democrats gave the governor three small side dishes in a \$3.8 billion banquet, in return for control of the main course. King wanted \$2 million to purchase Sears Island for possible future development. He got it. He wanted \$6.5 million for his learning results program, a smorgasbord of assessment tests and training programs. The Dems trimmed that to \$3.5 million. He was hungry for \$700,000 to start a family court system. He had to settle for a \$500,000 snack.

In return, King agreed to Democratic demands to spend an extra \$1.3 million for county jails, \$4.8 million for teacher retirement, \$23 million for local schools, \$5 million for the university system, \$2 million for the magnet school and \$2 million for research and development programs. King dropped his demand for closing all state liquor stores, and allowed the Dems to approve opening new discount stores. He gave up fighting for \$700,000 for a restorative justice plan. He saw his program for improvements to the State House slashed by \$2 million. And his proposal to double the tax on cigarettes and use the money for

a tax break was left out of the budget altogether. The tax increase may still be approved as a separate bill, but it's likely the money will be used to fund new programs.

Pass the Pepto.

It's obvious the governor bit off more than he could chew when he sat down to negotiate with the Democrats. It's also clear that he never had much on his plate that he actually cared about keeping. The result is that after dinner, the Dems retired to the den for cigars and brandy. The Republicans went slinking outside for a butt and a beer. And King headed for the garbage can.

All of this may prove to be more of a meat-and-potatoes issue than it appears. The Democrats are seriously discussing passing another budget bill this spring to fund new programs. Having fricasseed the governor once, there's no reason they won't try it again. Having been burned once, there's still no evidence King has learned not to put his hand on a hot stove, let alone not to climb in the oven and close the door.

### Murder for the money

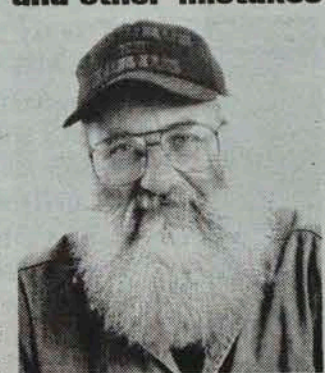
The Maine Civil Liberties Union (MCLU) is set to file suit in April seeking to overturn the campaign finance reform referendum approved by voters last November. The MCLU will be joined by the Maine Libertarian Party, two legislators, two private citizens and a special interest group or two.

The MCLU suit is the second legal assault on the new law, which creates a "Clean Elections" fund using public money to pay for gubernatorial and legislative campaigns. In December, the National Right to Life PAC challenged the measure, claiming it violated free speech rights. That case has yet to be scheduled for trial.

The MCLU suit will duplicate some of the arguments made in the Right to Life brief, but also seeks to exploit other weaknesses in the law. A source familiar with the case said the attacks would focus on the new limits on private contributions, the requirement candidates seeking public money raise a certain amount in \$5 donations, the inappropriateness of having government label candidates who qualify for tax dollars as "clean" and the doubling of lobbyist fees, an increase that may force small organizations to cough up almost as much to get a lobbying permit as they actually spend on lobbying.

Filing suit? Cloak your arguments in panting prose and send them to this column, care of *CBW*, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101. Can't keep your shirt on? Collar a fax machine and dial 775-1615. Or sock it to us by e-mailing [ishmaelia@gwi.net](mailto:ishmaelia@gwi.net). Just be brief.

### politics and other mistakes



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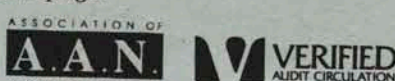
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### Some of what the Production Department listened to while getting this week's paper out:

The Thompson Twins, "Greatest Hits" • Yello Zebra, self-titled • Cibo Maitto, "Super Relax" • Soul Coughing, "Ruby Vroom"

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Stephen Moskey's got the union blues. Moskey, the executive director of **The AIDS Project (TAP)** in Portland, resigned March 21, saying he couldn't deal with a new staff labor union. Moskey's departure ends a stormy eight-month period for the agency, during which he

## news-orama



dealt with long-term financial problems including an \$80,000 deficit, but alienated many employees. Moskey claimed to know nothing of the problems that prompted formation of the union. He told the *Maine Sunday Telegram* he

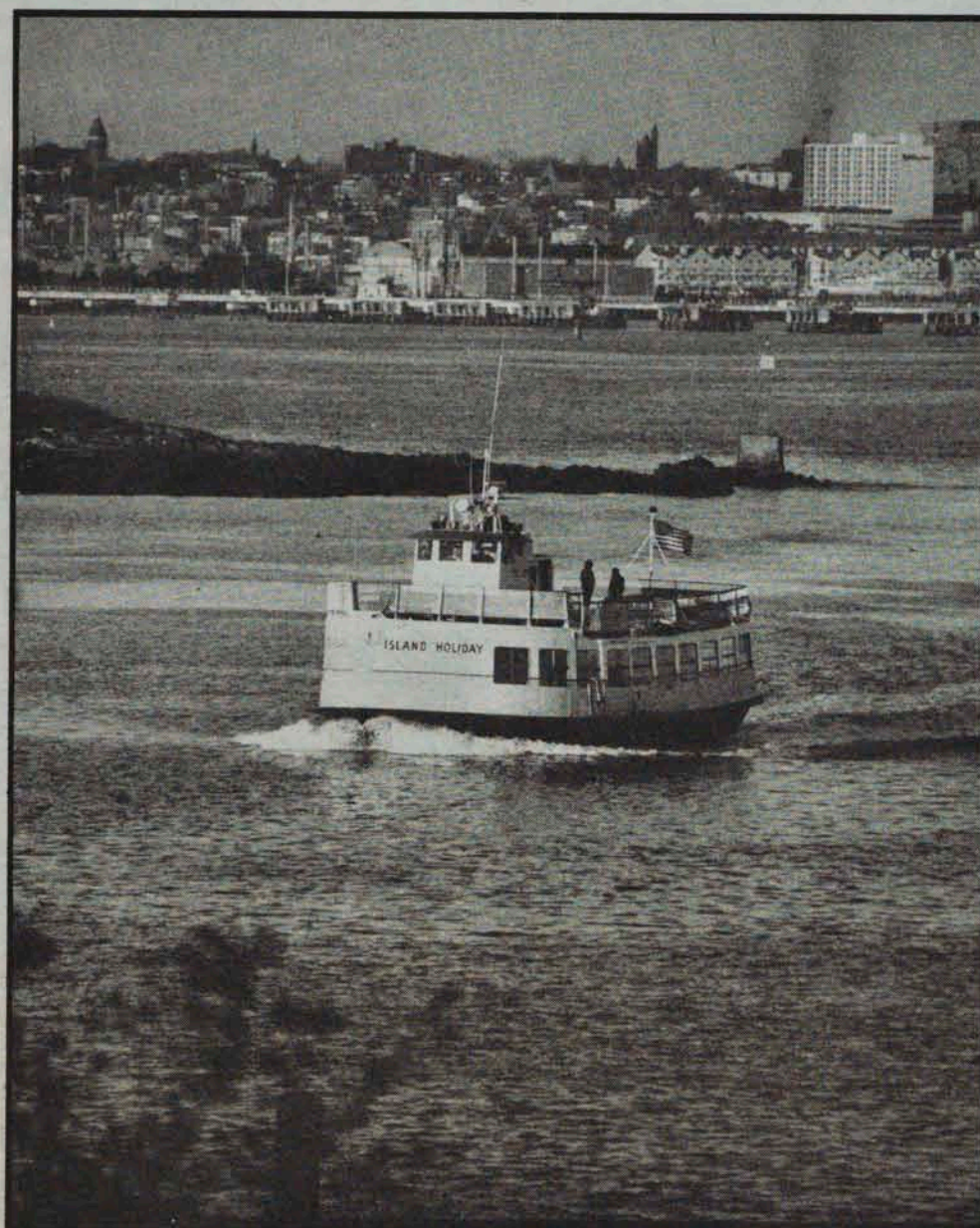
had "a very close personal working relationship with each staff person." There's some dispute about that. "Nobody likes him," said one TAP employee, "except maybe his cat." Moskey wasn't the only one joining the ranks of the unemployed. WGAN morning talk-show host **Don Kroah** got the boot on March 20. Kroah, who's co-hosted the program for six years, was fired because station management wanted more "pop culture" on the air and less local controversy. Both the station and Kroah denied his termination had anything to do with his conservative Christian views, and that appears to be true. Insiders say the news-talk station is trying to attract younger listeners, something management felt Kroah couldn't do.

One bright spot on the employment front is former mayor and ex-Portland West Neighborhood Planning Council director **Peter O'Donnell**. O'Donnell has been hired as a regional director for the state Department of Mental Health, a post that pays \$56,000 a year. The new job put an end to phony rumors that O'Donnell was conspiring with allies on the Portland City Council to win appointment as the new city clerk.

The list of those seeking a job on the **City Council** got longer last week. The former owner of the controversial Cage dance club, John Brier, took out papers for the at-large seat, as did attorney James Cloutier and Portland Taxpayers Association leader Walston Gallie. They join a field already crowded with the likes of former school committee member Nick Mavodones and newcomers Christopher Goett and Nolan Thompson. There's still one vacant spot on the May 6 ballot, though. Nobody has yet filed for the school committee seat representing Munjoy Hill and the waterfront.

If you were planning to apply for a job at the **Incinerator ash processing plant** planned for Scarborough, you can expect significant delays before you get hired. The Legislature is considering a bill strictly limiting the uses of the recycled paving material the American Ash Recovery Co. plant would produce. New restrictions on the dioxin-laced ash, plus opposition to using the ash from the state Department of Transportation, might delay the controversial plant for months — or possibly forever. **CW**

# CITY



FILE PHOTO

## Rocking the boat

Some CBL board members are trying to force management to walk the plank

### LAURA CONAWAY

Recent controversy over whether to increase ticket prices for ferries between Portland and the Casco Bay islands appears to be about more — much more — than saving passengers a few dollars each year. What opponents of the proposed fare hike really want, said Jim Phipps, a member of the Casco Bay Island Transit District's board of directors, is to fire the ferry's current management.

"The issue they have is not so much the increase," said Phipps, a Chebeague Island resident. "They have some issues with management and they're using this platform to move those issues forward in a very counterproductive fashion. There's a way to raise management issues, but it's not in a fare increase hearing. It's fair to be concerned about rates, but to bring in those personnel issues creates a three-ring circus, which is what we have now."

Since board president Cyrus Hagge recently proposed raising ticket prices — some of which haven't changed since 1988 — angry islanders have blasted the higher fares. Though the additional cost to the average Casco Bay Lines commuter would be only \$1 per week, many passengers told board members at public hearings this month they couldn't afford any increase. Hagge said he suggested the higher rates as a means of covering a projected budget shortfall. That deficit stems from the board's policy of banking at least \$100,000 annually for five years toward the purchase of a new boat.

But rather than supporting Hagge, board members Gerry Bell and Ted Weber are leading a citizens movement against raising ticket prices. Bell and Weber have called for a thorough review of the publicly owned company's \$2.6 million budget, saying ferry managers have failed to seek competitive bids on major purchases and are spending

beyond their means. While Bell and Weber deny they're trying to get rid of general manager Patrick Christian, they argue Christian should balance the budget by cutting costs, or step aside and let someone else do the job. "If current management can't carry it out, the board will make the decision to go out and find someone who can," said Bell, a resident of Great Diamond Island. "I think [Christian's] got to ask himself if the management style that's being demanded is really something he wants to do. It's his decision."

Christian was out of town and couldn't be reached for comment. Sources close to the board said Bell and Weber have been carrying out a "personal vendetta" against Christian for at least two years, repeatedly leveling charges of mismanagement. On March 21, the board voted 5-4 to table the increase while islanders and management looked for ways to cut spending. But Hagge said it's unlikely those now seeking sails to trim will be able to erase the projected \$87,000 deficit without raising ticket prices.

Even some who are wary of the rate increase said it's likely Hagge is right. Peaks Island resident John Carroll said Hagge's plan unfairly targets commuters from that island, but argued some kind of fare hike is justified. Carroll pointed to the company's fiscal success as proof the ferry service is being managed well. Last year, the transit district finished paying off the money it borrowed to buy the ferry service from its former owner, a private company. "It's out of debt. It's given excellent service. It's got safe boats — a terrific record for safety," Carroll said. "If people really thought about it, they'd say this is a success story. People should be pleased. I feel bad for the board having to go through a painful line-by-line budget review with 30 people in the gallery saying, 'You ought to cut your pencil budget.'"

Since the controversy began, belt-tightening islanders have delighted in finding ways for the ferry service to save money. One found a cheaper source for the plastic wrap deckhands use to secure pallets of groceries. Another discovered the administration could use a less-expensive long distance telephone service.

But the fastest growing part of Casco Bay Line's budget isn't administrative costs or purchasing or even vessel maintenance — it's employee wages. Hiring workers for the ever-increasing number of ferry trips, coupled with more lucrative union contracts, has driven payments for wages and benefits up more than 87 percent since 1989. Rather than pressing for a cut in salaries, Hagge said the board has authorized him to negoti-

ate another pay increase. That means Christian may not be able to accomplish what the board has asked — balance the budget without raising fares. Critics of Bell and Weber say the two men are forcing Christian — and the ferry line — into a painful decision. The company can raise prices despite vocal opposition from passengers, or slash service and leave island residents stranded.

"We can cut the number of boats," Hagge said. "We can cut out boat service on Sunday until noon, but that means all the people who like to go into town for church won't be able to. We can have the last boat on Saturdays be earlier."

While both Bell and Weber said they might be willing to make do with fewer boats, Carroll said he doubted whether islanders now calling for frugality would stomach sharply reduced service. He said more commuters are choosing to live on islands farther from the mainland than Peaks, and they're demanding convenient boats for traveling to their jobs. "Every one of these island communities, whether they want to admit it or not, is changing," he said. "It would be very interesting to hear those same people stand up and say what ought to be cut. I think they'll lose some of their enthusiasm for this fiscal tightness if you say we're just going to eliminate that boat."

Hagge said he intends to propose rate increases again at the next full board meeting on April 17. He estimated management might be able to trim as much as 4 percent from putting purchases out to bid. Hopefully, he said, the month-long budget review will satisfy Bell and Weber that management is already keeping careful watch over the books.

So far, Weber said, he's not convinced. He said he intends to keep pushing for change until the ferry service seeks competitive bids for all its major purchases and balances its budget without rate increases, even if that means hiring new managers. "We need to tighten up the management policies," said Weber, a Great Diamond Island resident. "If they can't use normal, good business practices — if they don't want to — then they ought to leave."

### Portland police

## Gang math

The cops' calculations of the number of gang members in the city don't add up

Portland police claim the number of gang members in the city has more than quadrupled since 1994. But those numbers contradict earlier police statements that indicated the population of resident gangsters was much larger.

In a March 18 report to a task force dealing with gang activity, police Lt. Russell Gauvin said membership in gangs had grown from 20 in January 1994 to 90 in January 1997. According to Gauvin, the city currently harbors nine

gangs. While Gauvin admitted his figures were just estimates, he said the trend was clear: Gangs are increasingly more violent and more dangerous.

Perhaps, but Portland's law-abiding citizens could be excused for failing to panic over the latest police report. As recently as January, the cops claimed the city was infested with more than 200 gang members. At ceremonies announcing the formation of Mayor John McDonough's Task Force on Gang Prevention, police said those misguided youth were affiliated with five gangs. In May 1996, Police Chief Mike Chitwood said there were 100 gang guys in town, although he qualified that by saying some only had "links" to gangs. And back in February 1994 — when Portland supposedly had but 20 gang members — Mark Dion, now the deputy police chief, submitted testimony to the U.S. Senate's Judiciary subcommittee on juvenile justice asserting there were 100 young gang members terrorizing the town.

The gangs' "addiction is not to crack cocaine," Dion told the committee, "but to the perverse adrenaline rush violence brings."

Asked to explain the discrepancies, Dion admitted that calculating a census of gang membership required more than a little guesswork. "The term 'gangs' is pretty transitory," he said. "It's not like joining the Elks."

Dion said the widely varying numbers were the result of counting "core members," as well as "friends, associates and hangers-on."

"It's not a nice neat little organizational pyramid," he said.

Dion was unable to provide a comparison between the number of hangers-on currently associated with Portland gangs and the number in 1994.

The latest police report — even though it shows a net decline in gang membership from the earlier figures — has already prompted a certain amount of hysteria. A *Portland Press Herald* editorial on March 24 warned, "The recent discovery of caches of assault weapons and ammunition suggest it won't be long before gangs start using guns on each other."

It apparently didn't occur to the editorial writer to wonder why police hadn't publicly announced uncovering these "caches" until they released the latest gang report. Surely such an event would have resulted in arrests (Possession of assault weapons is, after all, illegal). Nor did the fear-mongers pay much attention to educators. King Middle School principal Michael McCarthy said there are fewer incidents of violence at his institution than there were 10 years ago, and virtually no gang-related graffiti.

There is some hope that future police reports on gang activity will be more accurate, or at least more consistent. Dion said his department is compiling the names of gang members in a computer data base.

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■ AL DIAMON

"I don't need no legal advice at all," the woman told the judge.

She was wrong.

"I want to stay," the woman said. "I have a right to stay."

She was wrong again.

The woman was a defendant in an eviction proceeding in Maine District Court in Portland. Her landlords, a husband and wife who had only recently purchased their apartment building, told Judge Peter Goranites that the woman hadn't paid her rent for two months. "All I know is I've got my rent money right here," the woman said. "I just want to live there."

But her landlords no longer wanted the money. They just wanted the woman to leave, and they'd followed all the steps in the state's complex and exacting eviction process to force her to do so. The tenant, on the other hand, had done nothing to save her apartment. She hadn't brought a copy of her lease to court. She hadn't kept copies of correspondence with her landlords. Most importantly, she hadn't gotten any legal advice.

Goranites gave her the bad news: She had five business days in which to find a new place to live. After that, the landlords could get the sheriff to serve her with a 48-hour eviction notice.

"I have two small children at home," the woman said, tears beginning to form. "There's no place to live."

"Are you willing to give her more time?" Goranites asked the landlords.

"No," said the man. "We've already given her enough time."

"The law doesn't allow me to give you more time," Goranites told the woman. "I'm sorry. I know this is a difficult thing."

"So give me my papers," answered the woman angrily, tears cascading down her cheeks. "I'll leave, but he's not getting my money."

The woman didn't seem to know it, but she'd lost more than her apartment. Her lack of understanding of the system that governs landlord-tenant relations in Maine had also likely cost her the federal housing subsidy (commonly known as Section 8 money) she said she received through the Portland Housing Authority. Subsidized tenants who are evicted automatically lose that payment. If and when the woman found a new place to live, she'd have to cover all the costs herself. She'd also discover that her eviction had been entered into the computers of tenant-screening agencies, private companies that track evictions and compile landlords' reports on problem tenants. Any landlord who subscribed to such a service would quickly learn she was a poor rental risk (see sidebar, page 9).

The woman could have saved herself at least some of this grief. A call to Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Portland would have gotten her a free booklet titled "The Rights of Tenants in Maine" (see sidebar, page 11). The booklet lists in plain

# Renters' rights



## Maine law is balanced. That doesn't make things easy for tenants — or landlords

English at least a half-dozen steps she could have taken that might have halted or delayed her eviction. For instance, during the hearing, her landlord, who was also unrepresented by a lawyer, told the judge the woman's apartment "needs to be redone. It's not safe to stay there, so we asked her to move out." If the woman had testified that she refused to pay rent because of those unsafe conditions, the judge might have ruled in her favor. She could also, within five business days after her hearing, have filed a notice of appeal, which would have delayed her eviction until a jury trial could be scheduled to consider her case.

But few tenants are aware of those aspects of the law. And even those who are often give up the fight without exercising their full rights.

### Meet Mr. Cockroach

Debra Jackson rented a Portland apartment last August. Jackson, a single mother who'd moved here from New Jersey, quickly discovered her new abode had no working smoke detectors, no hot water, a broken kitchen stove, an inadequate heating system and cockroaches. Lots of cockroaches.

Jackson followed the proper procedure for dealing with these problems. First, she complained to her landlord. "He called an exterminator," she said, "who left pools of chemicals on the floor of my apartment. That stuff was all over the building, and for two weeks afterwards everybody in the building was sick."

Everybody except the cockroaches, who retreated but did not relocate.

Jackson then contacted Pine Tree Legal, which told her to call the city building inspector. After an inspection confirmed her reports of numerous violations of Portland's housing code, the landlord fixed the smoke detectors, but ignored most of the other complaints. In February, Jackson quit fighting and moved. "I gave up my security deposit and broke my lease," she said. "I figured he could take me to court for the rent, but if I left him the security deposit, he wouldn't pursue it."

"There's not a lot of laws to protect tenants up here."

Actually, there are, but it's tough to make that argument to somebody who's mopping pesticides off her kitchen floor while smooching cockroaches that are attempting to carry off the refrigerator, which happens to be the only working electrical appliance in the apartment. It's doubtful Jackson's landlord could have charged her additional rent for an unsafe apartment, and likely a judge would have ordered the return of her deposit. But it would have been a long fight, and most tenants aren't prepared for the struggle.

"They need a place to live," said Donna Yellen, the consumer advocacy project facilitator at the Preble Street Resource Center. "They don't have the time and energy to invest in the whole legal process. If they do win, then it's the whole point of living in that building with that landlord. People tell me they don't want to stay there. They know the repercussions will still be difficult to deal with."

Many landlords, however, have the knowledge, money and patience to use the system. Of the 25 cases heard by Judge Goranites on a recent afternoon, nine ended in default judgments for the landlords after tenants failed to show up in court, and 14 were settled by agreements, nearly all of them negotiated by lawyers representing the landlords. Two cases resulted in hearings, with the landlord winning one and the tenant winning the other. Not one tenant in any of the cases had an attorney present in court. More than one tenant left the courtroom looking unhappy, angry or confused.

"There's a real need [for more legal representation for tenants]," said Portland attorney Ben Grant. "A significant number [of tenants] have decided they don't have a defense, or haven't even been able to get it together to get in the system."

If somebody had been keeping score in court, they'd have had numerical evidence Grant was right. It would have read landlords 24, renters 1.

### No lawyers, no guns, no money

The lack of lawyers representing tenants is no coincidence. Pine Tree Legal provides low-income renters with a free booklet and some forms, but the chances of getting somebody at the legal services agency to litigate a case are tiny. Pine Tree has been hit by severe federal funding cuts, and has seen its southern

Maine staff decline from three-and-a-half attorneys to just one. Five years ago, Pine Tree was able to provide lawyers to help one out of every five people seeking assistance with housing problems. Today, that number is down an estimated 40 percent. "We used to be able to represent many more people in evictions," said the agency's executive director, Nan Heald. "Now we just explain their rights and try to tell them how to defend themselves."

"Our highest priority is cases in which the tenant is threatened with loss of [federal housing] subsidy if evicted," said Tom Kelley, directing attorney of Pine Tree's Portland office, which covers all of southern Maine. "Then there are cases with serious [health or safety concerns], and the tenant is withholding rent. But we aren't always able to take every case that comes along in those areas."

There's currently a bill before the Legislature to raise an extra \$900,000 a year for legal services by hiking court filing fees. But don't expect that to make a huge difference. Federal cuts over the last five years cost the state \$2 million annually in legal aid.

Other alternatives for tenants include the Volunteer Lawyers Project, a hotline that connects low-income clients with private attorneys willing to take cases for free. Like Pine Tree, the project has far more cases than it can handle, and can take as long as a week to notify tenants facing eviction hearings (for which the landlord must give them just seven days notice) as to whether anyone is even available to help.

The Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic run by the University of Maine School of Law handles low-income renters' cases, using third-year law students as staff. But the clinic has very limited resources, and a staffer described the chances many new cases would be taken as "bleak."

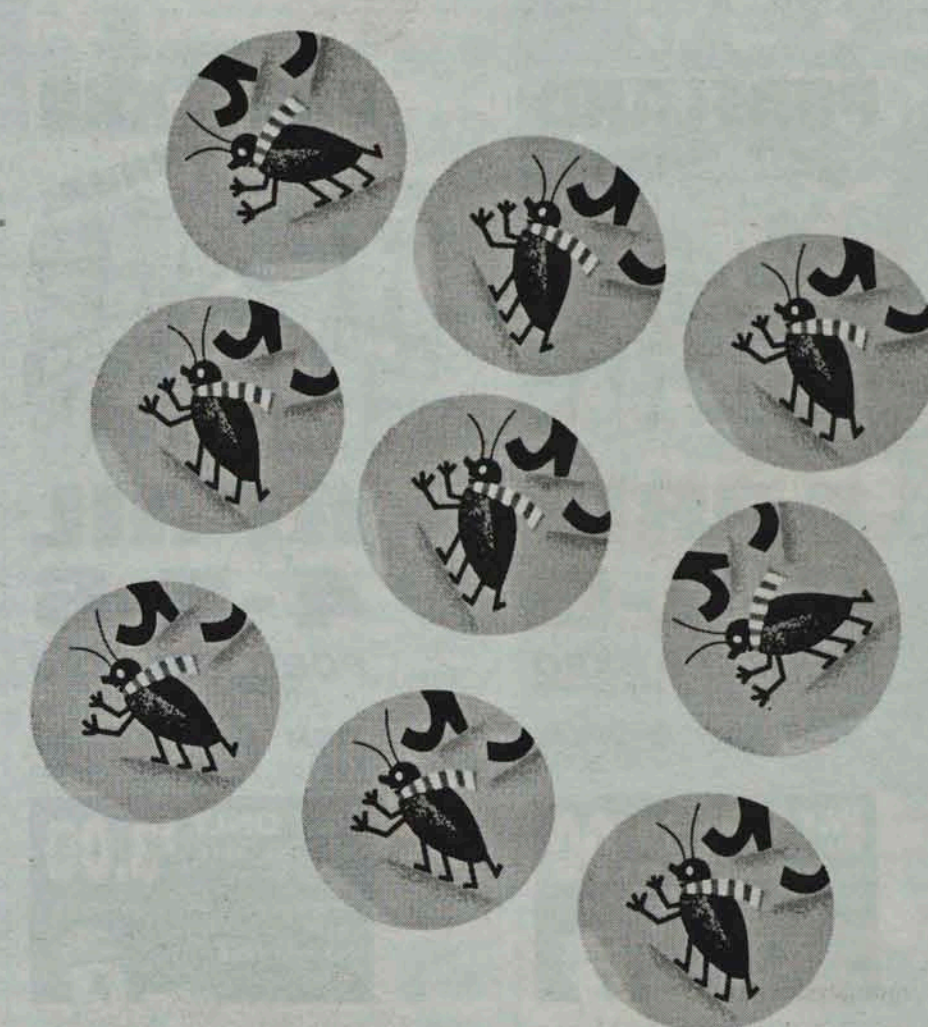
Portland attorney Steven Kommel, a former legal services lawyer in Massachusetts, is trying to set up a network of private attorneys to give free representation to low-income people in housing cases. Although Kommel has been able to get commitments from about a dozen lawyers, few cases are actually being referred to the group by the Volunteer Lawyers Project because of bureaucratic snafus. Even without that problem, Kommel said his group is hardly the whole answer to the problem. "We can plug some gaps," he said, "but we can't provide the same representation as a fully funded legal services lawyer. They can see trends. They know the problem landlords."

In District Court, Judge Goranites has seen the difference the loss of legal services funding has caused. "When Pine Tree was here, they'd come in and say, 'Here's the contract, here's the agreement,'" he said. "The problem with people who aren't represented is sometimes all they know is they signed some paper, which they don't have a copy of, and we have no way of knowing what it was."

### The rules of the game

The whole problem might be less daunting for tenants if there were some way to resolve problems without resorting to the legal system. But Portland has no board or commission to mediate disputes between apartment building owners and renters. The city's housing and neighborhood services office has some brochures and advice available, but that's about it. "In terms of what are my rights as a tenant, there isn't a real program here in Portland," said office director Mark Adelson. "We've tended to concentrate on the more pressing issues

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



### Somebody's watching you

If you've rented an apartment in Portland in the last 10 years, chances are your name is in Tenant-Net's computer. If you've been evicted, skipped out without paying the last month's rent or trashed the place before you left, the odds are even better that Tenant-Net knows all about you. And with landlords increasingly concerned about the background of potential renters, the likelihood is increasing that any such imperfections in your record will find their way into the hands of the next apartment building owner you approach about leasing a unit.

Tenant-Net is one of several services that collect information on renters and sell it to landlords for a fee. Property owners can fax the company a query on a potential tenant and get a response back within a few minutes. The Saco-based company began in 1994, its computers loaded with a decade's worth of evictions from the entire state. Since then, Tenant-Net has added information on thousands of additional renters, gleaned from forms sent to more than 350 landlords. "Probably only 5 percent of people go through the eviction process," said Tenant-Net president Timothy Murphy. "The other 95 percent, their tenant history is lost. What we're doing is trying to build up an historically accurate picture of those people's conduct."

Not surprisingly, most owners of rental property find Tenant-Net and its competitors useful in helping them avoid high-risk renters. Carleton Winslow, a Portland landlord who owns and manages about 100 units, plans to start using the service this year for the first time, a result of being burned several times by tenants whom he later discovered had done the same thing to other landlords. "I want to make it so bad tenants have a hard time getting housing," Winslow said. "I think [Tenant-Net] tries to help good tenants as much as it tries to hurt bad tenants."

But Bob Duranleau, Portland's director of social services, said Tenant-Net isn't doing any service to those at the bottom of the economic pile. Duranleau said the company makes it more difficult for social workers to help people get back on their feet. "It's really been tougher the last two years to find housing for people due to Tenant-Net," he said. "Tenant-Net is one of my staff's biggest frustrations."

Murphy denies his computers make it harder for people with problems to straighten out their lives. "We don't pass judgment," he said. "We just pass information along. I can't tell you specifically what one landlord might do with it. If Sally had an eviction in 1990, but since then has no history of problems, a landlord might just ask more questions, or he might ask for a larger security deposit."

Tobin Gardner, the housing coordinator at Holy Innocents, a social service agency for people with mental illness, considers Tenant-Net to be "pretty fair. It can be a wake-up call to somebody. It can convince them to take six months to establish a pattern of good tenancy."

Murphy claims to have information in his data base from 30,000 rental units — about 20 percent of the apartments in Maine. "I tell potential customers, 'There's a good chance a tenant has passed through one of those units,'" he said. "It's like credit. You leave footprints wherever you go."

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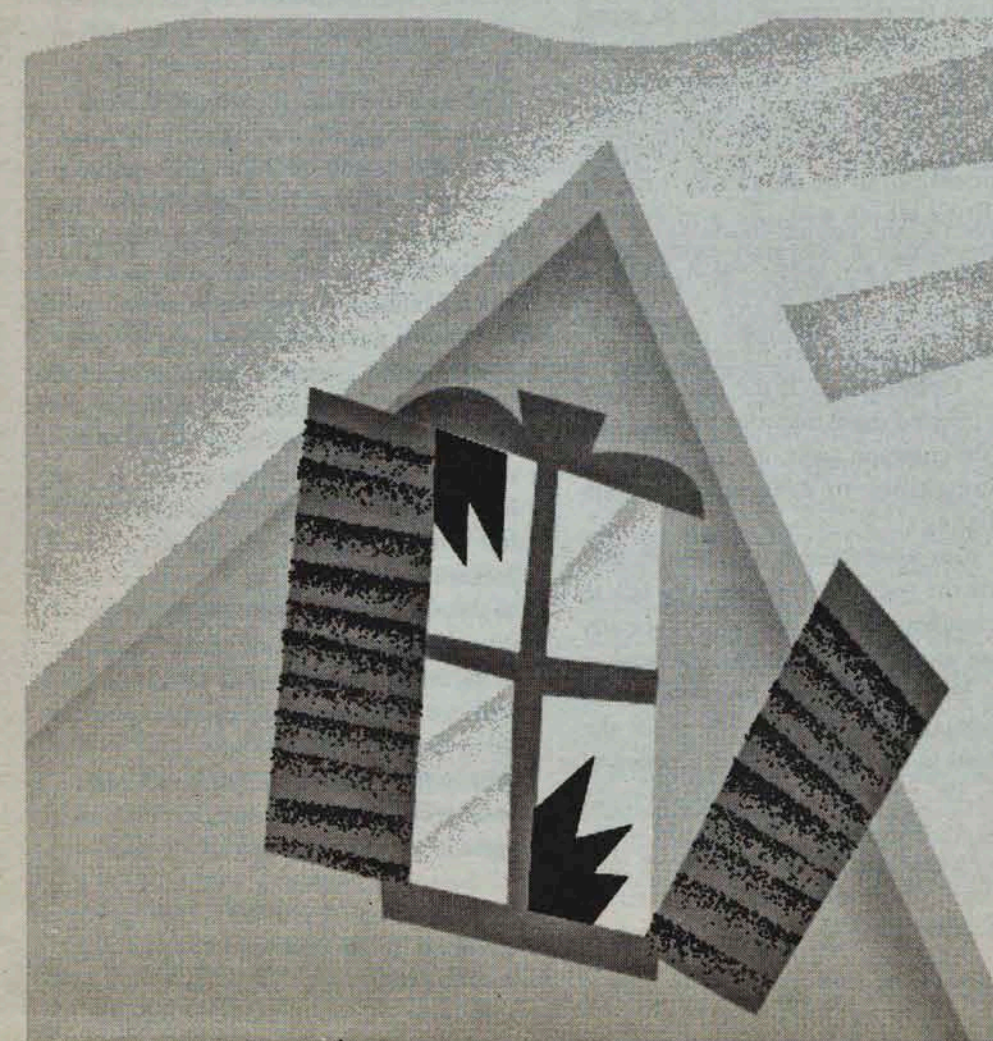
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# Renters' rights

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE



them to check their lease, and we find out the landlord doesn't have to do it. It's the tenant's responsibility."

Pine Tree also advises asking your landlord to sign a statement acknowledging any problems present with the apartment before you move in. Such statements can make it easier to get your security deposit back, because they prove you were not responsible for old damage.

Most importantly, keep good records. Your files should include your lease, security deposit receipt, rent receipts, correspondence with your landlord and his or her name and address. If you wind up in court, bring everything with you.

But simply possessing the right material on paper can help keep you out of court and speed up the resolution of conflicts. When a lack of security and hot water forced renter Chuck Marbach of Portland to bail out of his apartment after just three weeks, he was able to convince his landlord to return his security deposit because he kept meticulous records of his complaints. "Tenants do have rights," said Marbach, "but they have to get stuff down in writing. That's the key thing."

A copy of Portland's housing code can also prove a handy item for resolving differences. No hot water? Remind your

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

of discrimination and homelessness."

Which leaves the average renter with few options. Most tenants with troubles appear to have little knowledge of the law, and few clues about the most basic rules of the rental game — those contained in their leases. There's little doubt that many conflicts with landlords could be avoided if renters read leases carefully before signing them, and negotiated with apartment owners to change unacceptable provisions.

In its handbook "The Rights of Tenants in Maine," Pine Tree Legal urges tenants to ask questions about anything in a lease that's not clear. "Look for hidden charges or penalties," the pamphlet warns. "If you sign the lease, you may be stuck paying those charges. If something is important to you, get it in writing. Don't count on an oral promise."

Other advice: Find out who pays for hot water, heat, electricity, parking, snow removal and trash disposal. Learn who controls the thermostat. Get the last year's worth of electric bills from Central Maine Power (they have to give them to you), and see how much it really cost to keep the lights on. The same with heating bills. Make sure you know who's responsible for repairs to all appliances and the furnace. "A lot of people don't think about that when they sign the contract," said the city's director of inspections, Sam Hoffes. "Then when the furnace breaks down, they call us and say the landlord won't fix it. We ask

## Who ya gonna call

Resources for tenants in Portland are slim, but not nonexistent. The following agencies can provide limited help in some types of disputes.

Pine Tree Legal Assistance, 774-8211 — Provides legal services to low-income clients and gives out forms and draft letters covering many common landlord-tenant disputes. Pine Tree's booklet "The Rights of Tenants in Maine" is an essential, easy-to-understand guide to housing law. It's available at the agency's office at 88 Federal St., at Portland City Hall's Fair Housing Office and on the Web at [www.pila.org](http://www.pila.org).

Volunteer Lawyer Project, 774-4348. Refers qualified low-income people to private attorneys willing to take their cases at no charge. The phone line is usually busy, so you might want to try writing to the project at P.O. Box 547, Portland, ME 04112.

Cumberland Legal Aid Clinic, 780-4370. Low-income people can get free legal advice from third-year law students. The clinic is located in the law school on the University of Southern Maine campus.

Legal Services for the Elderly, 800-750-5353. Specializes in legal problems of those age 60 and over. There are no income guidelines. The hotline is staffed by attorneys, who give legal advice and can help prepare documents.

Portland Fair Housing Office, 874-8731. Handles complaints of illegal discrimination in housing, and offers information on other housing problems.

Maine Human Rights Commission, 624-6050. Investigates complaints of housing discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, physical or mental impairment, welfare status, being a single parent, being pregnant or having children.

Portland Building Inspection Office, 874-8300. Investigates reports of housing code violations. If violations are confirmed, orders landlords to fix them promptly.

Portland Housing Authority, 773-4753. Provides housing for low-income families in subsidized private apartments and public housing projects.

Holy Innocents Housing Program, 871-7431. Assists low-income people with mental health issues in finding housing.

Plebe Street Resource Center, 874-6560. Provides a variety of housing referral services to low-income people.

Portland General Assistance Program, 775-7911. Provides rental assistance for people with no available assets and vital needs that cost more than their income.

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# Renters' rights

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

landlord the city requires it for all rental units, and it has to be heated to at least 110 degrees. Not enough heat? "Every habitable room," reads the code, "except for rooms used primarily for sleeping purposes, shall be served by heating facilities which provide a minimum temperature of at least sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit, at a distance of three feet above floor level ... from September fifteenth through May fifteenth of each year." Cockroaches? If the little boogers have infested more than one unit or crept into the common areas, it's the landlord's responsibility to exterminate them posthaste.

If your apartment has problems that violate the code, the first step is to talk to your landlord. If that fails to produce any action, a call to the building inspector is next. The inspector will investigate, and if a violation is discovered, order the landlord to fix in within a set amount of time. That period can range from as much as 60 days for minor problems, such as cracked plaster or broken stair railings, to immediately for serious conditions, such as insufficient heat or broken sewer lines.

The downside of calling in the inspectors is that you could end up without an apartment. One renter found raw sewage flowing into his basement, and reported it to Hoffes, who confirmed the complaint. But the landlord couldn't be reached, and the inspector said the building was too much of a health threat to be habitable. The tenant was left with two options — pay to fix the problem and hope to recover the money later, or move out. Many renters don't call in Hoffes' housing police, opting instead for a roof over their heads, even if that means putting up with a less-than-sanitary situation underfoot.

"One of the things we struggle with," said Preble Street Resource Center director Mark Swann, "is the balance between trying to find affordable apartments for people, and the fact that sometimes that means they're not particularly safe, clean or well-put-together. We struggle between how much we need the apartments, and how much to get the city inspectors involved. It's not a feel-good situation when you know you've got landlords who are exploiting people, and the apartments are lousy places to live."

Landlords occasionally try to play fast and loose with security deposits. If you're up to speed on state law, you'll know that the deposit can't be more than two times your monthly rent and must be returned even if your apartment suffered damage from normal wear and tear. Once you move out (leaving your landlord the key and your forwarding address), he or she has a maximum of 30

days to return your money.

Some landlords will try to convince tenants they can enter their apartments at any time. Maine law says otherwise. Building owners are supposed to give "reasonable notice" — usually 24 hours — of their intent to visit. The visit also must take place at a reasonable hour for the tenant. Only in the event of an emergency — a burst pipe, a fire, etc. — can the landlord enter immediately.

Finally, there's the annoying problem of evictions. Contrary to popular belief, if you don't have a lease, your landlord can evict you without telling you why. All it takes is a 30-day written notice. If you have a lease, you can still be kicked out, but only for good cause. If you've committed more serious violations, such as damaging the apartment to the point it's unrentable, attacking other tenants or being more than a week late with the rent, you can be evicted in as little as seven days, lease or no lease, but in that case, you must be told the exact reason you're being kicked out. If you don't agree, you're entitled to a day in court.

### Landlords are people too

Before things degenerate to that point, it might be worth talking about the problem with your landlord. Holy Innocents' housing coordinator, Tobin Gardner, spends much of his time finding places to live for people with mental health problems. Gardner said most disagreements can be settled by mediation. "It's very rare the landlord is ignoring the law," he said. "There's still some crummy stuff going on, but most landlords are putting money into apartments ... and making repairs quicker."

Another powerful mediator is the Portland Housing Authority (PHA), itself the city's biggest landlord. The PHA oversees leases for 1,700 units of subsidized housing. Tenants in those units can ask the authority to intervene in disputes with unresponsive landlords. If the building has code or lease violations, "we require the work to be done, and done quickly," said Mary Bostwick, director of housing services. "If there's no action, we send rent abatement notices. They don't get their money."

Bostwick said most landlords fix problems within 10 days of receiving an abatement notice. The PHA sends out 10-15 such notices each month.

While it's clear landlords enjoy a substantial advantage over tenants in court cases, few apartment house owners prefer that route for resolving their difficulties. "If I take somebody to court in a clear-cut case — say for non-payment of rent — it costs me \$150 in court costs, even if I'm acting as my own attorney," said landlord David Pirone. "I'm out the rent. I'm out the time. And the mental drain is significant. And that's

## The tight market myth

One reason tenants are willing to pay high rents for lousy housing in Portland is because many of them believe there's a severe shortage of apartments. According to the 1990 census, there are 16,340 rental housing units in the city. According to most landlords and the media, 98 percent of those units are occupied. That means that at any given time there are just 327 vacant apartments in Portland.

Peter Wovkonish, president of the Greater Portland Housing Association, a landlord group, doesn't buy that figure. "There's tremendous distortion in terms of the tight housing market," Wovkonish said. "Last winter the market tightened up because of the extreme weather, but we had lots of turnover later in the year that more than made up for that."

Wovkonish estimated the current vacancy rate at about 10 percent, but he said that figure varies widely depending on quality. "The upper end of the market is at 95-98 percent occupancy," he said. "The lower end is closer to 80 percent."

There's some evidence to back up Wovkonish. The March 16 *Maine Sunday Telegram* ran 140 classified ads offering more than 160 apartments in Portland for rent. That's a 40 percent increase in the number of ads over last July. If the market were really 98 percent saturated, the ads would also represent half of all vacant units in the city. But if housing were that much in demand, it's unlikely such a high percentage of landlords with vacancies would bother to advertise. Most would simply fill their units from waiting lists or through word of mouth. While many housing experts find Wovkonish's 10 percent figure a bit high, they say the number of classified ads indicates the vacancy rate has stabilized at around 8 percent.

That doesn't mean the myth of an apartment shortage isn't having an impact. A Portland Housing Authority survey of rental prices shows the average two-bedroom apartment in Portland costs \$643 a month, including utilities and heat, up from \$564 in 1989. But in some areas of the city prices are rising even faster. The south side of Munjoy Hill used to have average rental costs that were about 10 percent lower than those on the more fashionable areas near the Eastern Prom. In the past two years, that price difference has virtually disappeared. A two-bedroom apartment with heat and utilities now goes for \$635 on the Eastern Prom and \$633 in the blue-collar buildings.

"The vacancy rate is tight, especially at the upper end of the market," said Portland landlord Dave Pirone, who owns 85 units. "At the lower end, rents are up, but the ability to pay is not going up."

Housing program officials share the perception there are few apartments available. "The market is very tight," said Donna Yellen of the Preble Street Resource Center. "There's a high occupancy rate and very few openings. It's raising the rates."

And as long as people believe in the tight market, it'll probably continue to do so. A.D.

for a clear-cut case."

Pirone charged that landlords are "held hostage" by state laws that can delay evictions for weeks or even months. "I'm not saying those safeguards [for tenants] aren't needed," he said, "but they can be overdone."

Surprisingly, many landlords disagree with Pirone about the law. "Maine is one of the most neutral states for housing laws," said Peter Wovkonish, president of the Greater Portland Housing Association, a landlord group. "There's no major advantage to either side."

(Among other buildings, Wovkonish owns a Cumberland Avenue apartment house where unacceptably high levels of lead were found by the Department of Human Services ["Heavy metal blues," *?????*].)

Wovkonish said some states routinely take six months or more to process evictions, while others allow landlords to throw renters' belongings out on the sidewalk within a few days. "We have a pretty balanced approach," he said. "There are no major abuses."

As for Pirone's complaint that evictions take too long in Maine, Wovkonish said many owners don't start the process early enough, allowing tenants to pile up two or more months of unpaid rent before taking action.

Crandall Toothaker, who owns 250

units in Portland, is another landlord who discounts tales of woe from apartment house owners. Toothaker screens all tenants carefully, requiring references and financial information. He's also developed a reputation for operating well-maintained properties, something he said makes solid business sense. "If you allow your building to become run-down," he said, "you'll have problems with the tenants."

It must be paying off. Toothaker has never had a renter take him to court, and has filed only a single small claims court case against a tenant.

Perhaps the strongest safeguards built into Maine's laws are those requiring participants to follow the rules exactly. "The major feature of the system is the law requires strict compliance with its terms," said Judge Goranites. "That cuts two ways. It can work to the tenant's advantage, because if the landlord slips up, he or she will have to start all over. On the other hand, if the landlord does all the correct things, and the tenant isn't sophisticated about the law, they'll never pick up on any defects in the landlord's case."

Know your landlord, know your lease, but most of all know the law.

*Al Diamon, CBW's political columnist, is neither a landlord nor a tenant.*

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# comment

## Home free

The majority of the citizens of Portland have not yet realized the alleged American dream of owning the place where they live; 58 percent of the city's housing stock is rental units. Some people rent because they can't scrape together the capital and credit necessary to buy, but for many, renting is a positive choice. They could opt to buy a domicile, but enjoy the mobility and lack of responsibility renting affords.

When you're a renter, though, it's easy to feel you have no control over your own home. It can be difficult to get a landlord to turn up tepid heat, replace broken appliances, squash virulent vermin or hush up obnoxious neighbors. Often renters live with conditions that are irritating or downright dangerous simply because they are worried that by calling attention to such problems, they'll somehow endanger their status with the landlord and end up on the street. And in the last few months, there's been a lot of talk about how tight the housing market is here in Portland. Better to live with the devilish landlord you know, goes the thinking, than to find yourself out in the cold.

We suggest that all such terrorized renters read this week's cover story ("Renters' rights," page 8), clip it and save it for help in troubled times. Renters in Maine have a decent amount of legal protection, but very few people know what their rights (and responsibilities) actually are. That's why the simple brochure available from Pine Tree Legal Assistance is such

a valuable resource.

But Pine Tree's budget has been hacked away to the point that the legal agency can't do much more than hand over the brochure and tell you to figure out your problems yourself. Help is available from some other sources (see "Who ya gonna call," page 11), but if you can't afford a lawyer, you'll have to be well-informed, motivated and aggressive to prevail if you end up in court.

Prevail you can. Too often, citizens see the legal system as frightening. But it doesn't have to chew you up. Remember, if you're in the right, the system can protect you and provide you with some measure of retribution. Justice, they call it.

It's worth taking the time to learn your rights. Nothing is more important than a safe, secure place to live. Even if you never realize the "dream" of owning your own house, if you're a responsible tenant, you should never have to worry about where you sleep at night.

### Correction

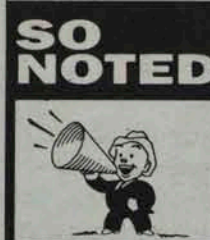
In our write-up of the "Best Italian sandwich" winner, Amato's ("The toast of Portland," 3.13.97), we mistakenly said the Amato family — which invented the iconic sandwich — was Greek. According to Jack Amato, who should know, they are Italian and proud of it. Our apologies.

SARAH GOODYEAR

**WINNERS**  
MUNJOY HILL DOG OWNERS  
CONCERNED MAINE FAMILIES  
MERRILL AUDITORIUM  
MARR'S SHOWPLACE  
F.U.Q. ME

**LOSERS**  
REGIONAL WASTE SYSTEMS  
IWAN  
ST. DOMINIC'S CHURCH  
SABINO'S  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

**JURY'S OUT**  
JOSH BOOTY  
"PUSHING THROUGH"  
MAINE TIMES  
CASCO BAY LINES  
PORTLAND WAVE



## ESSAY

## I was an illegal subletter Or live and let let

■ ANONYMOUS (as dictated to Jonathan Adams)

No discussion of renters' rights would be complete without at least a mention of renters' wrongs. I have decided to cast the first stone squarely at myself and make a full and public confession of my illicit renting activity last summer. This is my shameful story.

The reasons that I agreed to sublet illegally are shrouded in complexity and extremely dull. The relevant facts are these: In late May, intricate housing plans were hatched between myself, my partner in what might broadly be considered crime, and two perfectly legal apartment-letters, "Sue" and "Susan" (not their real names). They were fleeing Portland for summer vacation; Sancho and I were looking for a new spot to unroll our sleeping bags; their lease forbade subletting. Thus was born a summer of fear and intermittent trembling, in which we lived as fugitives from the lease, landlord, and our own tortured consciences.

Like Tom Sawyer's gang drawing up plans that materialized only in their feverish imaginations, Sancho and I thought up a story to use in case we encountered The Landlord. Arguments ensued over who was going to be Sue's house-sitting boyfriend and who the Norwegian exchange student with an uncertain

command of the English language. Tempers flared; so did Sancho's nostrils. And June's first dawn had not yet broken over Casco Bay.

While struggling with the specifics of our cover story, we had in the meantime hit upon an obscure method of paying our rent. Checks would be drawn up and handed off to someone known to us only as "Joe" at Joe's Smoke Shop, who would send them by moose over the White Mountains to J.D. Salinger, with instructions to mail them back to us so we could forward them to Sue and Susan, who would then write up their own checks and send them to the landlord from suspiciously distant parts of the country.

That this method succeeded is a tribute both to our ingenuity and to the fact that our landlord really didn't give a damn where his rent came from.

As June crept by on little lobster claws with no sign of The Landlord, we began to suspect that he might not exist at all. But finally he showed up. I was at work; Sancho was alone in our abode laboring at his macramé Elvis portrait/ throw rug. The doorbell rang. In the face of this calamity, my co-delinquent stonewalled by repeating that he was Sue's boyfriend and "only there house-sitting for a few days." The fact that the landlord hadn't asked him anything wasn't going to deter Sancho. In any event, the ruse worked: The Landlord applied some caulk here and there, wandered around with a hammer looking thoughtful, and left.

The weeks following that unexpected visit were marked by a state of abject fear, at least in between trips to Zootz. We would cower in terror at the sound of a footstep on the stairs. Sometimes we would huddle in our respective sleeping bags and rock back and forth

until the danger passed.

The ax had to fall again, and fall it did — more than a month later. I, again, was absent; again Sancho was toiling over his throw rug. Confronted once more with the landlord's unheralded presence, my fellow scoundrel struggled to recall his former story. He got it half right, sputtering that he was "only house-sitting for a few days," but claiming to hail from the fjords of frigid Norway. This remark caused The Landlord to notice someone else was in the room.

Luckily, the summer was almost spent. Realizing that our ill-conceived cover story was unraveling as fast as Sancho's throw rug, we abandoned it altogether (the story, not the rug) and slipped into brazen deception. We lost the Norwegian accents. We entered and left our own residence in broad daylight. We even struck up idle chit-chat with the neighbors. Before we knew it, September had reared its saintly head and rescued us from further wickedness — none too soon for our blemished souls.

That's my story. I'm not proud of it. But sometimes forces outside your control spin your life in an unwholesome direction and all you can do is try to hang on without losing your sombrero. To my unwitting ex-landlord, all I have to say is: mea culpa, mea culpa, mea culpa. Having said that, do you have a place to let for the summer?

Jonathan Adams is a CBW lackey. He would prefer a two-bedroom pad with lots of light and plenty of space to unroll a sleeping bag.

## LETTERS



Casco Bay Weekly welcomes your letters. Please keep your thoughts to less than 300 words (longer letters may be edited for space reasons), and include your address and daytime phone number. Letters, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101 or via e-mail: editor@cbw.maine.com.

### Ukraine lives in our hearts!!

The Kiev that John Lary visited ("From Ukraine with love," 3.6.97) is not the Kiev we lived in for four months.

Although we did experience some of his same difficulties, our impressions were shaped by the hopefulness of the people, not by the random bad choices of a few. From our homestays, we experienced a side of Ukraine possible only through taking the time to learn the language and communicate directly with the people. Our host families became second families to us. We found that they are people just like us — looking to the future for change and improvement.

Ukrainians have not yet lost their hope for the future. Instead they see the future as being today. With the recent independence from the Soviet Union, Ukrainians are taking the initiative to change their lives for the better, for the way they want it.

For example, our "parents" all worked at least three jobs — usually without getting paid for months at a time. Yet they never gave up — they even spoke freely with us about their hope of getting paid. As Yelena (Andrea's mom) put it, "change takes time and until then, we wait and hope."

Ukraine was our home for four months and will always remain special to us. It taught us how fortunate we are and how strong Ukrainians are. It is sad that John Lary did not see or share this side of Ukraine.

Martina Morrow  
Andrea Vogl  
Brunswick

### Yer so-called toast

The anger in this letter is not directed at CBW, but at the people of Portland.

And not all of the people in Portland, either — only the ones who voted for Police Chief Michael Chitwood instead of Frannie Peabody for the best person in Portland ("The toast of Portland," 3.13.97). I was outraged to open up my CBW and find the man who basically ran the Dog Man out of town was somehow considered to be a better person than the loving woman who gave up her home to people with AIDS.

Picture this: I'm 16, pregnant, sitting at my church. A short, little old lady comes up and says comfortingly, "It will all be OK." Who was this woman? How did she know I was scared? Why did she care?

I later learned that this woman was Frannie Peabody, the coolest chick in Maine, possibly the world.

A couple of weeks ago, Frannie talked to me again. I felt honored. It has been almost two years since I had my little boy, Jasper, and I hadn't really talked to her since I was pregnant. She saw me, her face lit up and she said, "How are you doing?"

Maybe that sounds stupid. Maybe I sound like another 18-year-old "cop hater." I am not. I am just a strong believer in love.

So the time the next "Best of Portland" poll comes around, if Frannie doesn't win, I'm moving.

Ann-Marie Keene  
Portland

### Good going, George

What a great article on Regional Waste Systems ("Money to burn," 3.20.97). It is about time that people realize just what kind of operation RWS is running and just how much of our property tax dollars are going towards legal fees and consultants!

On another note, this issue shows that it's a good thing for the city of Portland that George Campbell has decided to step up to the plate and take another term as a city councilor. Even though I do not live in his district, I know George Campbell, and have been able to rely on him and his leadership on a number of issues. You hit the mark in saying that Campbell's experience in public policy serves the city well. Campbell knows how to build consensus and has earned the respect and credibility of his fellow representatives; not just from Portland, but also from our neighboring cities and towns. I had the experience of running as George's opponent in his last race for the councilor, and I am glad to support him for his re-election.

Great job on both the part of CBW and Councilor Campbell for their willingness to stand up against and expose one of the giants to support the voice of the average property taxpayer.

John Connors  
Portland

### A few clarifications

In response to the article by Sarah Goodyear on the closing of St. Dominic Church ("Saint's Alive?" 3.20.97) I wish to clarify two points.

First of all, St. Dominic is not the oldest Catholic church in the city of Portland — the Cathedral is. St. Dominic is the oldest Catholic parish. The original church building was constructed in 1831, then torn down in 1888 to build what exists now.

Secondly, to imply that the \$600,000 raised since 1992, due to the sale of the parish school and rectory, were not put back into the church but used for the entire diocese. I wish to clearly state that that money exists in diocesan savings and loan accounts that the parish holds and which has generated interest income since 1992 to maintain coverage of regular operating expenses as well as necessary emergency repairs. It was decided that to use all of that money all at once would eliminate the possibility of covering our yearly expenses.

Fr. Frank Morin  
Pastor, St. Dominic Parish

## CBWQ

### What's up with Burger Bistro (once Burger King) in Monument Square?

Where once there were happy folks stuffing imitation Whoppers in their gullets, there is now gloomy darkness and a pitiful note saying, "Closed, Under Repair." But there's no visible evidence of repairs in progress; the phone goes mournfully unanswered — it seemed something sinister was definitely afoot.

Unfortunately, the real story is rather mundane. We talked to Jen Smith, who managed the eatery when it was still called Burger King. She wouldn't reveal the reasons for the name change, but did say the restaurant would not be reopening under either moniker in the foreseeable future, citing safety hazards, the lack of a drive-through option and the basic fact that the Bistro "wasn't making enough money." So if you're jonesing for a Whopper or something eerily similar to a Whopper, it looks as though you're going to have to hike out to Forest Avenue.

Got a burning question about life in Greater Portland? Let CBW's crack investigative squad sort it out for you. Those whose questions are selected for publication will receive a complimentary SPAM® refrigerator magnet. CBW Q, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101, or by fax: 775-1615.

### All together now

Thank you, Ms. Goodyear, for your celebratory editorial "The best of all possible worlds" (3.13.97). Having just returned to my hometown, I was comforted by the increase of a visible multicultural presence in Portland. Going through Reiche, King Middle and Portland High, I felt a great deal of isolation as both a Native American and as a gay youth. With a stronger and more visible multicultural population, maybe the struggles I faced will be less for the youth who will follow if the commitment to end racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of hatred/oppression is taken seriously by our community.

G. Loring Harmon Jr.'s comments in his letter of 3.20.97 show a lack of knowledge and investigation concerning racism. If he was serious about his statements, he would have done the homework to support his mythic arguments and judgments.

The first fact a person would find is that Maine is not nor ever has been a "white" state. The people of Maine are Native Americans. The rest are here through a long history of immigration and slavery. Maine, like the rest of the Americas, Australia and New Zealand, was made to be all white through the extermination of indigenous peoples and the appropriation of indigenous lands.

People of color did not create racism. Racism is a system of power in which one racially identified group dominates and exploits another for the benefit of the exploiting group. In the United States, people of color do not have the power to practice racism against white people. People of color are not responsible for the system of racism and white supremacy, nor should we be made feel any obligation to uphold the current system. Nor are people of color responsible for the maintaining the security of white privilege.

I believe people are interested in getting along and are willing to share the beauties of this wonderful planet. There was a time when all our children could grow up without the violent crimes of racism, homophobia, sexism and poverty. We can achieve this goal in our lifetime if we are willing to reach for what is supposedly impossible. As a united people for justice (different from "just-us") the harvest is plentiful.

Patrick Dunn  
Choctaw/Natchez/Cherokee nations  
Portland

### criminals, comedians or cops

	Tiny Rascals Gang	Little Rascals	Portland Police
Members heavily armed	x		x
Funny hair		x	x
Loud-mouthed leader		x	x
Drunken parties	x		x
Pit bulls	x	x	
Documented cases of members assaulting citizens	x		x
Documented cases of members being jailed for assaulting citizens	x		
Fear by West End Wrecking Crew	x		
Fear by patrons of The Cage			x



**T**ell me something good: First there was Portland's honorable mention in an *Outside* list of the country's best funhog towns. Then came a *Snow Country* endorsement touting us as one of the country's six most desirable ski towns, and a near-miss for inclusion in the book "The 100 Best Small Art Towns in America." Now comes yet another high-visibility accolade for wee, unassuming Portland: inclusion in a piece titled "America's Most Enlightened Towns," the cover story in the May/June

## ear to the pavement



issue of *The Utne Reader*, due out in a couple of weeks. The story includes a lengthy feature on a college town in upstate New York, as well as shorter profiles of 10 towns around the country, including Portland, that are dealing with urban problems in a creative or otherwise "enlightened" manner.

We learned of the story recently when an *Utne Reader* writer contacted CBW to get the low-down on the Forest City, one of 30 burghs in the running to be profiled. When we found out Portland had made the cut, we called *Utne* for a few details. An intern, Daniel Kraker, gave us a rundown of the criteria used to ascertain a town's relative enlightenment: civic involvement of the citizenry, political progressiveness, urban design and walkability, scenic value, cultural attributes, historic preservation, gay friendliness, ethnic and class diversity, presence and quality of community radio and alternative media, quality of schools, alternative health outlets, and what Kraker described as a city's "sense of its own self, both locally and regionally."

The clincher for Portland, which, for the record, did not come from us: Our easily accessible, user-friendly waterfront. Huh? The article apparently cites the referendum, passed in the mid-'80s and later amended, that was designed to "protect" the waterfront from development. The measure was, in fact, draconian and short-sighted, and helped plunge waterfront development into a decade-long deep-freeze. "We saw the referendum as citizens exercising power," said Kraker. "We also saw it as businesses and fishermen working side-by-side, which seemed like evidence of a close-knit community." Asked how much time the writer spent in Portland, Kraker replied, "I'm not sure the writer spent any time in Portland at all."

Okeedokee. Just so the writer knows, we're a swingin' ski town, too.

■ **Beanie bag:** A line of anxious women and children snaked out of an unmarked storefront recently at the Maine Mall, spilling out into the food court. They looked at once **worried and hopeful**, like babushkas queued up for a delivery of meat during the depths of Soviet-era Russia. We shouldered our way through the crowd and glimpsed this season's Holy Grail of retailing: a fresh load of Beanie Babies. Formerly sold from a pushcart, the fetching stuffed creatures were causing so many traffic problems on the mall floor they had to be sequestered. Limit: 10 per customer. Get them if you can. **CBW**

# edge

"PUSHING THROUGH" TO DARKNESS ... ZEN GUERRILLA YEN ...  
WEST END MEMORIES OF A WEST END GIRL ... TALKIN' ARCHITEX ...  
J. BARRY MOTHE GOES DOWN SWINGIN' ... IT'S POPA CHUBBY TIME!



Don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing: contradancing at the Presumpscot Grange. PHOTO/COLIN MALAKIE

## Twirling the night away

### Contradancing is good for you, or why 800 dancers at the Downeast Country Dance Festival can't be wrong

■ **MARY BETH LAPIN**

Despite the usual battery of childhood dance lessons, I've come to terms with the fact that I'm not especially graceful. Some folks got rhythm, some don't. So when a friend invited me to a contradance not long ago, I resisted. Finally, I gave in to promises that no one would laugh at me, I'd enjoy the music and I'd catch on. That was partly true. The band played rollicking, folky tunes that were hard to resist. Experienced dancers offered friendly advice, like stare into your partner's eyes and you won't get dizzy. I followed along passably on a few numbers, but never exactly caught on. I did spend an exhilarating evening galloping clumsily around the grange hall, getting alternately spun around by and handed off to good-natured strangers whose feet I regularly tromped on. No one laughed, and I'm pretty sure no one got hurt.

Contradancers typically describe their first experience in much more glowing terms, like Ellen Gawler of Belgrade, a fiddler and contradance caller, who attended her first contradance when she

was 17 in Putney, Vermont. "It just hit me like a ton of bricks," she said. "It was so magical to walk into a room and hear live music and see people dancing. I loved it."

New Englanders have been falling in love with contradancing since the first English settlers arrived with country dance steps and fiddles. The past two decades have seen a popular revival of folk dance nationally, including Maine, and the seventh annual Downeast Country Dance Festival (March 28-29) at Yarmouth High School is expected to draw up to 800 participants. While festival evenings are dedicated to contradance — a basic formation where dancers line up opposite a partner — the festival, modeled after events in New York and Massachusetts, offers dances of all persuasions. Daytime classes and performances include Scottish Country Dance, Quebecois Step Dance, Irish Ceili, Appalachian Clogging, Cajun Couple Dance, African Dance for children and workshops for callers, fiddlers, piano players and tin whistlers.

The roots of contradance lie in small New England towns, but these days contradances are popping up all over the map. When festival organizer Ketra Crosson traveled for work to Florida recently, she dropped in on a contradance she found advertised on the Internet. Crosson, who lives in New Gloucester, started contradancing while she was attending at the University of New Hampshire. She said dancing is an easy way to socialize when she's on the road. "It's really comfortable. Even though it's a community you don't know, you feel that you're not a stranger," she said. Sometimes she'll run into someone she's met at another contradance.

One of Maine's longest-running contradances is in Bowdoinham, where contradances have been held at Town Hall for 22 years. There are also regular dances in Blue Hill, Bar Mills, Kittery, Rockport and Freeport. In this line-up, urban Portland's thriving 20-year-old scene is something of an anomaly, according to Tom Wilsbach, a fiddler

who performs with the Crooked Stovepipe Band, which hosts a monthly dance at the Presumpscot Grange on outer Forest Avenue. "Sometimes you'll run up against somebody who remembers the town dances in their little town farther Downeast, but the regular contradances that happen around this area are more recently established," Wilsbach said. "We all kind of come out of the late '60s and early '70s revival of folk music. Very few of us are Maine natives, and very few of us are people whose parents and grandparents did this kind of dancing."

If people don't contradance because Grandma did, how do they get started? Some migrate from other dance forms, like clogging, square dance or English country dance. College students see flyers posted in student unions for things called contradances. Yet others are recruited by enthusiastic friends. Some, like Michael Connolly of Portland, are drawn by the music, a lively mix of Irish, Scottish, English and French-Canadian traditional tunes. "I wasn't a dancer until I went to a contradance," said Connolly. "It was just challenging enough that you could dance it without knowing what to do, but if you wanted to put a little more time into it, you could bring it to another level." Years ago, at a dance in Brunswick, Connolly came to the rescue when the band's piano player got a

headache. The musicians taught him the D chord, and he picked up the rest as he went along. Connolly has been the piano player in the Crooked Stovepipe Band ever since.

It may be the warm-and-fuzzy social aspect of contradances that keeps veterans dancing and draws newcomers to the fold. "I think contradancing fills a gap that many Americans feel," Gawler said. "We're such a diverse culture, and it strikes a chord for people to come together. It's non-verbal, it's an art form, it's aerobic, it's non-alcoholic. It's all the things people are looking for."

While some contradances may be more geared to beginners than others, most have a welcoming reputation. People learn by dancing; there are no lessons, although callers conduct "walk-throughs" before each new dance. Dancers can show up solo if they don't have a willing partner. If the genders are uneven, numbers-wise, women dance together, strangers pair up and, to keep things moving, experienced dancers graciously partner novices. "We always try to make it so a beginner can step into the hall and have a good time. It's something we feel strongly about," Gawler said. "We start out with simple dances and progressively get more complicated. It's mostly just go with the flow and follow directions and have somebody show you how to swing." **CBW**

## preview

### More than bittersweet



Hard to believe, but the Colorado-based trio Big Head Todd and the Monsters have already been around more than a decade. They've produced five albums — including their latest, "Beautiful World" — and have won themselves a reputation as smart, down-to-earth rockers with an inexhaustible jones for touring. To these furry ears, nobody does wistful rock as well as Todd Park Mohr and the boys; try "Angel Leads Me On," from the band's last album, "Strategem," or "Crazy Mary," on "Beautiful World." These guys aren't just about minor keys and bittersweet remembrance, though; they explore their collective funk on "Beautiful World's" title track, which sounds like it just walked off George Clinton's mothership (keyboards by P-Funkster Bernie Worrell and producer/ex-Talking Head Jerry Harrison don't hurt), and cut loose on an assortment of driving, uptempo rockers.

Joining BHTM at their Pavilion show is Miami-based singer-songwriter extraordinaire Nil Lara, who's also building himself a nice, outsized rep as a dynamite live performer. Call me overly optimistic, but this date seems to have all the makings of something big.

■ **SCOTT SUTHERLAND**

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**SUN ALL REQUEST NIGHT**  
NO COVER BEFORE 11PM • 9pm-3am  
\$1 drafts & \$2 wells 9-11pm  
Drink Specials!  
M-TH \$1 Drafts/\$2.50 Wells from 9pm to midnight, and it's bartender's choice down in **The Rec-Room**, open every night 'cept Fri, 9pm-1am, 773-8187

## Stone Coast SMOKING ROOM

**Fri. Happy Hour Buffet 5-7**

**GIRLS NIGHT OUT!**

**LADIES IN FREE Reverend Groove**

**Sat. At 8PM**

**Jerry Granelli + UFB**

**Caberet Show**

**PETTING ZOO FREE AT 11PM**

**Sun 3-30 Easter Brunch**

**11:00, 1:00, 3:00 Seatings**

**Tues 4-1 X 25 CD Release Party**  
(Formerly Xanax 25)

**Upcoming**

**Apr. 10th The Bogmen**

**Apr. 11th Big Ass Truck**

**Apr. 12th Bim Skala Bim**

**THE SMOKIN'EST JOINT IN TOWN 773-BEER**



## Prime cut

The fast, loud and noisy blues of San Francisco-based **ZEN GUERRILLA** is a sound that falls somewhere between the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion and the trippiest Doors tune. On songs like "Gap-Tooth Clown," the band mixes harmonica with distorted vocals to create an entirely new take on the blues. Occasionally they even slow down for a bouncy, more melodic tune, like their cover of "This Little Light of Mine." Catch Zen Guerrilla March 28 at Geno's, 13 Brown St, Portland, at 9:30 pm. Ian Faith opens. Tix: \$4. 772-7891.

## thursday 27

**The Basement**  
Fat Jed, 1 Exchange St, Portland. 828-1111.

**The Big Easy**  
The 3-D Horns (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Portland's Funniest Professional Semi-Final Contest, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Instant Comedy (stand-up comedy), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
Wide Open Mic Night, 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.

**Granny Killams**  
Riot Act CD Release Party with Clean and Skull Babies, 55 Market St, Portland. 761-5865.

**The Moon**  
College Night (DJ Jayce spins top 40 dance), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
The Opie Cartel (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Raoul's**  
NRBQ (rockin' blues), 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Tipperary Pub**  
Greg Powers Karaoke, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, So. Portland. 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Take Two, 31 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Zootz**  
Colefax Abbey and Ditch Witch, 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**Friday 28**

**The Basement**  
Theory of Negativity, 1 Exchange St, Portland. 828-1111.

**The Big Easy**  
T.B.A. (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Frank Santorelli, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**The Daily Fix**  
Mike McGuire (acoustic guitar), 182 Middle St, Portland. 828-8610.

**Free Street Taverna**  
String Builder (grunge country), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
Zen Guerrilla and Ian Faith, 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.

**Granny Killams**  
Moon Boot Lover and Swingset, 55 Market St, Portland. 761-5865.

**The Moon**  
House Party (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Division Street Band (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
Sisters Benefit, 188 Middle St, Portland. 773-6422.

**Raoul's**  
Pope Chubby (blues), 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
Reverend Groove (funk), 14 York St, Portland. 773-2337.

**T-Birds**  
DJ Steve Nason (70s dance), 126 N. Boyd St, Portland. 773-8040.

**Tipperary Pub**  
Tony Boffa Trio, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, So. Portland. 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Dancing with DJ Andy, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Verrillo's**  
Chameleon (Top 40), 155 Riverside St, Portland. 775-6536.

**Zootz**  
Bounce! (DJ Larre Love spins until 3 am — all ages), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**saturday 29**

**The Basement**  
Snappin' Gomez, 1 Exchange St, Portland. 828-1111.

**The Big Easy**  
Rick Russell & the Cadillac Horns (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Comedy Connection**  
Frank Santorelli, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**The Daily Fix**  
Jason Williams (acoustic guitar), 182 Middle St, Portland. 828-8610.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Slew Foot, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
14th Anniversary Party with The Whigs, Cradle II Grave, Clean and 3 More Bullets, 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.

**Granny Killams**  
Jiggle the Handle, 55 Market St, Portland. 761-5865.

**The Industry**  
Dance with DJ Mix, 50 Wharf St, Portland. 879-0865.

**The Moon**  
Portland's Best Dance Party (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Division Street Band (rock), 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
DJ Jimmy Lynch (top 40), 188 Middle St, Portland. 773-6422.

**Raoul's**  
Broken Men (Dead covers), 865 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-6886.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
The Jerry Granelli Band (jazz), Petting Zoo (funk covers), 14 York St, Portland. 773-2337.

**Tipperary Pub**  
Tony Boffa Band, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Maine Mall Rd, So. Portland. 775-6161.

**The Underground**  
Dancing with DJ Andy, 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Verrillo's**  
Chameleon (Top 40), 155 Riverside St, Portland. 775-6536.

**Zootz**  
Decades of Dance ('70s, '80s and '90s dance music), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**sunday 30**

**Comedy Connection**  
George Hamm's Comedy Showcase, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Peep Show (geek core), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Gritty McDuff's**  
Pam Baker (blues), 396 Fore St, Portland. 772-2739.

**The Moon**  
70s Retro Party (DJ Jayce), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Karaoke, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**The Underground**  
Dancing with Jamin' Joe (karaoke in front lounge), 3 Spring St, Portland. 773-3315.

**Wharf's End**  
Open Mic with Ken Grimsey, 52 Wharf St, Portland. 773-0093.

**Zootz**  
All Request Night (dance until 3 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**monday 31**

**The Big Easy**  
Laser Karaoke with Ray Dog, 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Open Mic hosted by Chance the Gardener, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Karaoke, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
Big Head Todd and the Monsters w/ Nil Lara (rock), 188 Middle St, Portland. 773-6422.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**tuesday 1**

**The Big Easy**  
Mike Hayward's All-Star Revue (blues), 416 Fore St, Portland. 780-1207.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Dick Danger & the Side Burners (dumppickin' rockabilly), 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Gritty McDuff's**  
T.B.A., 396 Fore St, Portland. 772-2739.

**Old Port Tavern**  
T.B.A., 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**Sisters**  
DJ Ainsel, 45 Danforth St, Portland. 774-1505.

**Stone Coast Brewing Company**  
X25 CD Release Party (formerly Xanax 25), 14 York St, Portland. 773-2337.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**wednesday 2**

**Comedy Connection**  
Improv starring the ID, 6 Custom House Wharf, Portland. 774-5554.

**Free Street Taverna**  
Mirvie, 128 Free St, Portland. 774-1114.

**Geno's**  
Uptown and Unplugged, 13 Brown St, Portland. 772-7891.

**Gritty McDuff's**  
Zen Lunatic, 396 Fore St, Portland. 772-2739.

**The Moon**  
Ladies' Night (DJ Will), 427 Fore St, Portland. 772-1983.

**Old Port Tavern**  
Greg Powers Karaoke, 11 Moulton St, Portland. 774-0444.

**The Pavilion**  
DJ Jimmy Lynch (top 40), 188 Middle St, Portland. 773-6422.

**Zootz**  
Rec Room (open 8 pm-1 am), 31 Forest Ave, Portland. 773-8187.

**Free Street Taverna**  
local beer, local art & local rock

**Instant Comedy**

**Thurs 3.27**

**String Builder**

**Fri 3.28**

**Nick Danger & SideBurners**

**Dump Pickin' Rockabilly**

**Sat 3.29**

**Peep Show**

**Sun 3.30**

**Hawk's Open Mic**

**Mon 3.31**

**Poetry w/ Big World**

**Tue 4.1**

**Miravie**

**Wed 4.2**

**Pete says put your boots on and get your ass down to the Taverna.**

**GREAT ENTERTAINMENT ALL WEEK**

**125 Free St., Portland 774-1114**

**INTERESTING FACTS**

**by Frank Gaziano**

On which day of the year are the most telephone calls made nationwide? Answer: Mother's Day.

It is NOT true that white wine comes only from white grapes and red wine comes only from red grapes. The liquid in almost all grapes is white. To make red wine, red skins are fermented along with the white grape juice.

Before the 1930's, there was NO Social Security in the U.S., and before the 1960s, there was no Medicare.

Surprisingly, in the entire history of America, only ONE Speaker of the House of Representatives ever went on to become President of the U.S. That was James Polk who was Speaker from 1835 to 1839, and President from 1845 to 1849.

And here's another interesting fact...

The "BORN ON" date on all Anheuser-Busch brands and packages is their guarantee of brewery fresh taste. Message... "Freshest taste within 110 days" reassures you, the consumer, that your favorite Anheuser-Busch brand is still fresh.

**FRESH BEER TASTES BETTER!**

**ISN'T IT NICE TO KNOW YOU'RE DRINKING THE BEST?**

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**MICHELOB LIGHT**

**828-1111**

**Basement Bands**

On the Corner of Fore & Exchange below Punky's Pizza

**Thurs 3.27**

**FAT JED**

**Fri 3.28**

**THEORY OF NEGATIVITY**

**Sat 3.29**

**SNAPPIN' GOMEZ**

**Every Wednesday**

**Open Mike**

**Thurs 4.3**

**NEPTUNE ENSEMBLE**

**Thurs 3.20**

**TO THE MOON ALICE**

**Fri 3.21**

**Lazy Lightning**

**BARGAIN BASEMENT SPECIALS**  
FREE PIZZA EVERY DAY FROM 5-7PM

**RAOUL'S ROADSIDE ATTRACTION**

865 Forest Ave • Portland  
773-6886/fx 775-2494

**Fri 4.4**

**Roomful of Blues**

**Terrance Simien**

9 pm / \$10

**Sun 4.6**

Tickets available at: **Strawberies & Cd Authority**

**EAT EAT EAT**

**DINING LISTINGS**

**THE UNDERGROUND**

3 SPRING STREET PORTLAND, MAINE 207 773 3315

**Sundays**

**NAME YOUR POISON**

**Stormin' Norman**

The way Karaoke is supposed to be!

**9-1**

**9-1 Tuesday**

nickel and dime is back

but domestic beer & your next is only a nickel.  
but a well-drink and your next is only a dime.

All Day ..... 4pm to 1am

**This Thursday March 27th**

**TAKE 2 TAKE TWO**

performs in the front lounge from **9-1** NO COVER

**Sunday Nite**

**Easter Bonnet Contest** come in wearing the crowds favorite home-made Bonnet & win **\$50.00**

**New Daily Drink Specials All Day NO COVER FRIDAYS**



# Listings

Casco Bay Weekly listings are a fun and free service to our readers. To have a listing considered for publication, send complete information (including dates, times, costs, complete address, a contact telephone number) by noon on Thursday prior to publication.

## stage

**"The Glass Menagerie"** Portland Stage Company presents Tennessee Williams' autobiographical tale of a Southern family during the depression. At 25A Forest Ave., Portland. March 30-April 20. Tues-Fri 7:30 pm, Sat 5 & 9 pm, Sun 2 & 7:30 pm. Tix: \$18-\$29 (discounts available). April 4 at 7:30 pm is community night (artists, educators and non-profit groups pay half price). April 5 at 9 pm is pay-what-you-can. 774-0465.

**"H.M.S. Pinafore"** The Portland Players present Gilbert and Sullivan's satirical operetta. At Portland Players, 420 Cottage Rd., So. Portland. April 4-26. Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 2:30 pm. Tix: \$13 (\$10 opening night). 799-7337.

**"Lloyd's Prayer"** Mad Horse Theatre Company presents a comedy about redemption, con artists, angels and a boy raised by raccoons. April 10-May 4. Thurs 7:30, Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 5 pm. Tix: \$18 (\$16 students/seniors). Sat night tix: \$20 (\$18 students/seniors). Gala opening night, April 11, \$25. April 13 is pay-what-you-can. April 17 is 2-for-1. 797-3338.

**"Peter Pan"** L/A Arts presents the National Marionette Theatre's interpretation of the classic tale. April 4 at Lewiston Middle School Auditorium, 75 Central Ave., Lewiston, at 7 pm. Tix: \$6. 1-800-639-2919.

**"Pushing Through"** Acorn Productions presents Shauna Kanter's performance piece about the plight of Israeli and Palestinian women, using music, singing and spoken word. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St., Portland. March 27-April 6. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 5 pm. The April 6 performance will be followed by an educational forum with Dr. Elise Young. Tix: \$12 (Thurs is 2-for-1). 775-5103.

**"Redemption"** The Student Performing Artists at USM presents an original student-written play about the ironic consequences of a life of crime. At The Lab Theatre in Russell Hall, USM campus, Gorham. April 26, Wed-Sat at 7:30 pm, Sun at 5 pm. Tix: \$5. 780-5483.

**"Sha-Bop!"** The Schoolhouse Arts Center presents a musical revival of the songs of the '50s. At the Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Sebago Lake Village. April 4-13. Fri 7:30 pm, Sat & Sun 2 pm. Tix: \$5. 642-3743.

**"Someone Who'll Watch Over Me"** Dark Water Theatre Company presents Frank McGuinness' story about the relationships between three hostages held in a makeshift cell in Lebanon. At the Danforth Gallery, 20-36 Danforth St., Portland. March 27-30. Thurs-Sat 8 pm, Sun 7 pm. Tix: \$13 (\$10 students/seniors). 892-3728.

**"The Sound of Music"** Seaglass Performing Arts presents Rogers & Hammerstein's musical. At State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland. April 4-13. Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 4 pm. Tix: \$12 (\$8 kids). 985-8747.

## auditions/etc

**Auditions** For a variety show, April 9, at the Schoolhouse Arts Center, Route 114, Sebago Lake Village, at 6:30 pm. 642-3743.

**Auditions** Acorn Productions seeks a man 45 years or older, to be cast in the upcoming production of "Cross-Dressing in the Depression." Auditions by appointment only. 775-5103.

**Auditions** Portland Players holds auditions for the upcoming production of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," April 3 & 4 at Cheryl Greeley's Theatre-Dance, 875 Broadway, So. Portland, at 7 pm. 799-7337.

**Auditions** Dark Water Theatre Company seeks two men and two women to join the cast of "Durang/Durang" for a second run. Auditions are by appointment only during March. 892-3728.

**Post Performance Discussions** Portland Stage Company presents discussions in conjunction with its production of "The Glass Menagerie." April 6: Love Locked Out in Tennessee Williams, with Dr. Anne Fleche, professor of English at Boston College. April 16: Curtain call discussion with the cast. Discussions begin 10 minutes after 2 pm performances. 774-0465.

**Volunteers Needed** Oak Street Theatre Company has volunteer opportunities in a variety of areas, from set construction and painting to poster distribution and front of house. Volunteers receive complimentary tickets. For more info, call Michael Levine between 2-5 pm. 775-5103.

## concerts

### saturday 29

**Boy Singers of Maine and First Parish Children Singers of Gorham** Presented by the Westbrook UU Church Coffeehouse, 719 Main St., Westbrook, at 7 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$10 family). 839-4159.

### monday 31

**Big Head Todd & The Monsters** At the Pavilion, 188 Middle St., Portland, at 8 pm. Nil Lara opens. Tix: \$16.50. 773-6422.

### wednesday 2

**"The Maine Collage"** The world premiere of a new work by seven Maine composers performed by the Portland Symphony Orchestra. The PSO will also perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland City Hall, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$17-\$37. "Meet the Composers" prior to the show from 6:30-7 pm. 842-0800.

## preview

# Come to Popa

**P**opa Chubby once told a reporter that the South Bronx neighborhood where he grew up was so tough that his childhood friends were all "either dead or taking up needle-point." That toughness is reflected in the guitarist's music, which draws from a palette of roots rock and blues, styles that have diverged over the past 30 years. Gathering influences as diverse as late '60s Brit



File under "music": Popa Chubby

blues (he cites Peter Green, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page), American blues ("When I first heard Freddie King, it said something to me I'd never heard before"), as well as heavy metal and punk (he was a member of Richard Hell and the Voidoids). Chubby sees it all as one. "I don't really play the blues," he maintains. "I play music."

But marketing this music can have its pitfalls. Two years ago, Chubby's major-label debut album, "Booty and the Beast," showed him sporting a shaved head, heavy tattoos, a wool cap and dark glasses, and he was instantly mistaken for yet another rap artist. Though a single from "Booty," "Sweet Goddess of Love and Beer," became a tough summertime anthem, the CD was constantly misfiled in music stores and never found much of an audience.

Chubby's live shows, on the other hand, have won him a devoted following. Stalking the stage and working audiences like an old-time blues man, he's able to book upward of 300 gigs a year.

His last appearance in Portland is remembered by the few witnesses as one of the best live shows in recent memory. And he'll take requests. But think twice — with a 300-pound, street-smart Stratocaster player just a few feet away, you may want to be careful what you ask for.

**Popa Chubby performs March 28 at Raoul's, 865 Forest Ave., at 9 p.m. Tix: \$10, \$12 day of show. 773-6886.**

■ JIM PINFOLD

## upcoming

**Herb Pomeroy Group** April 3. Portland Concert Association presents the legendary trumpeter and big band leader in concert. At State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland, 7:30 pm. Tix: \$16. 842-0800. While in town, Pomeroy will offer a series of jazz clinics, lectures and a master class. For info, call PCA at 773-3150.

**Andrea Trio** April 3. The popular Maine string trio plays a noonday concert. At First Parish Church, 425 Congress St., Portland, at 12:15 pm. Presented by Portland Conservatory of Music. 625-4439.

**"Music of Silk and Satin"** April 3. An evening of singing by Diane Charnaine with piano accompaniment. At Foreside Harbor, 191 Foreside Rd., Falmouth, at 7 pm. 781-8201.

**"Romance of the West"** April 4. The Portland Symphony Orchestra performs a pops concert featuring western-themed music from movies and Broadway shows. Police Chief Michael Chitwood will make an appearance as a guest conductor. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland City Hall, at 8 pm. Tix: \$17-\$37. 842-0800.

**Julie & Brownie** April 5. The children's performers play a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network. At the Westbrook UU Church, 719 Main St., Westbrook, at 4:30 pm. Tix: \$5 (\$10 family). 854-2497.

**Portland Rossini Club** April 6. A concert featuring Sally Merrill, piano, Christina Astrachan, voice, Emily Taylor, flute, Kristin Fox, oboe and Nichol Ernst, piano. At Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 3 pm. Admission: \$5. 846-4503.

**The Windham Chamber Singers** April 6. The group performs a benefit for the Maine Cancer Research & Education Foundation. At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 307 Congress St., Portland, at 2 pm. Tix: \$5. 773-2633.

**Benny Reehl Benefit Concert** April 9. A performance

by Noel Paul Stookey, Tony Montanaro & Karen Hurl, Anne Dodson & Szostak and the Swordsmen to help pay the medical and living expenses of comedian Benny Reehl. At Portland High School Auditorium, 284 Cumberland Ave., Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$15. Proceeds benefit 354-8928.

**The USM Choral and Chamber Singers** April 11. A spring concert. At Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 8 pm. Tix: \$4 (\$2 seniors/students). 780-5555.

**The Winds of Maine** April 11. The woodwind quintet plays classical, popular and Broadway music. At Wilde Chapel, 672 Stevens Ave., Portland, from 7-8 pm. Presented by Falmouth Community Programs and Portland Parks & Recreation. Cost: \$5 (\$3 advance). 781-5253 or 874-8793.

**Heritage of Harmony** April 12. The Downeasters Barbershop Chorus presents a concert featuring Mixed Nuts and Downeasters Chorus & Local Quartets. At Winslow Homer Center for the Arts, Scarborough High School, Scarborough, at 2 & 7:30 pm. Tix: matinee \$8; evening \$10.

**Greg Boardman** April 12. The master fiddler plays a concert of traditional music featuring his students and friends. At Lewiston Middle School, 75 Central Ave., Lewiston, at 8 pm. Tix: \$12 reserved (\$8 students/seniors). 1-800-639-2919.

**The Indigo Girls** April 13. At the Wadsworth Gym, Colby College, Waterville, at 7 pm. Tix: \$22.50.

## dance

### events

**African Dance Class** April 11. With Lisa Newcomb and Jeff Densmore. At Casco Bay Movers, 151 St. John Street, Portland, from 5:30-7 pm. Cost: \$12. 871-1013.

**Dance Extraordinaire** March 29. The Studio for Living Arts sponsors a night of performances by Maine's top youth dancers. At Gorham High School, 41 Morrill Ave., Gorham, at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$6 (\$5 advance). 657-5386.

**Downeast Country Dance Festival** March 28 & 29. Dancers and musicians from throughout Maine, New England and Quebec gather to perform and dance at the 7th annual festival. At Yarmouth High School, West Elm St., Yarmouth. March 28 from 8 pm-midnight (\$8), March 29 from 10 am-5 pm (\$10) and 10 am-midnight (\$15). Festival pass: \$20 (kids are half price). 774-2504.

**"A Midsummer Night's Dream"** April 12 & 13. Maine State Ballet presents Shakespeare's classic story. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland City Hall. April 12 at 1:30 & 7:30 pm, April 13 at 1:30 pm. Tix: \$15-\$35. 856-1663.

**Old Fashioned Country Dance** March 29. At Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Rd., Bar Mills, at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$6 (\$10 couple). 929-6472.

**Singles Dance** The Singles' Network holds a dance the 2nd Sat of the month. April 5: Music by the Shifters. At Maplewood Dance Center, 383 Warren Ave., Portland, from 8:15-midnight. Cost: \$8 (\$5 members). 1-800-814-9609.

### others

**Alive & Well** Ram Island Dance holds a monthly studio show offering dancers and choreographers a chance to perform in an informal, non-critical environment. Open to all forms of movement. Next show: April 25. At PPA, 25A Forest Ave., Portland, at 7:30 pm. Free. 773-2562.

**Ballroom Dance Social** The Gorham Dance Club hosts a ballroom party and social, Saturdays from 8:11 pm at the Center of Movement, 19 State St., Gorham. Potluck supper at 7 pm. Cost: \$5. 839-3267.

**Contact Improvisation/Open Movement Dance Groups** meet Mon, Tues and Wed from 8-11 pm. Cost: \$4. At Ram Island Dance, 25A Forest Ave., Portland. All ages and abilities welcome. 775-4981.

**Contemporary Dance with Eduardo Mariscal** Thursdays from 7:15-8:45 pm. At Casco Bay Movers Dance Studio, 151 St. John St., Portland. 871-1013.

**Contradance** with Crooked Stovepipe Band every third Fri at 8:30 pm at the Presumpscot Grange, 1844 Forest Ave., Portland (across from Tortilla Flat). All dances taught. Singles always welcome. Cost: \$5. 774-3392.

**Contradance** with The Sea Slugs the first Sat of each month at 7:30 pm at Saco River Grange Hall, Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills. Cost: \$4 (\$2 kids/\$10 family max). 929-6472.

**Contradance** with Whirled Peas and John McIntyre the first Fri of every month at 8:30 pm at State Street Church, 159 State St., Portland. Cost: \$5. (All dances taught). 774-1873.

**Dancing From the Inside Out** is an ongoing class in expressive dance and creative movement. Come move in a safe supportive space. No experience necessary, open to all. Sat 9-11 am, Wed 4-6 pm. At Maine Ballroom, 614 A Congress St., Portland. Cost: \$10. For more info, call Jesse Loesberg at 773-2362. **Dancers Wanted** Eduardo Mariscal is looking for per-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

# Congress Street Minutes

## Life in the West End

I wasn't surprised that the West End was voted "Best Neighborhood" in the recent *CBW* readers' poll. Not that there aren't great neighborhoods scattered throughout Portland, but the West End is a pretty **charming** place. I should know. I've lived here for the last 10 years and I know it like the back of my hand.

I've lived in no less than **11 apartments** during my tenure. That's an average of better than one per year. In fact, I moved four times one year. I didn't necessarily set out to spend a decade in one neighborhood — in fact, I've looked at apartments all over the city. It just seemed to work out that way. At one point I even wondered if I had some kind of **mystical attraction** to the neighborhood. I remember one night years ago, hanging out at **Woodford's Cafe**, I made a little map on a napkin and plotted dots in all the places I'd lived to see if maybe when connected they would reveal some kind of **arcane symbol**. They didn't, but who knows — maybe they would if I tried it now.

I roomed with two art students in my first apartment in Portland, a green building on **Pine Street**. I'll never forget the time that the old man next door offered to buy us curtains because we'd hung up what we thought were beautiful cloth tapestries in the window, prompting him to comment that they made the neighborhood look like "some kind of **shantytown**."

From there it was a dizzying shuffle between apartments and roommates, like the time I was living in my friends' dining room on **Spring Street**, with their **psycho**



Spring Street. PHOTO / COLIN MALAKE

landlord threatening to evict me. I almost wound up moving into the **YWCA**, because it was right before the fall semester and every apartment I looked at had a waiting list, sometimes as long as 40 people ahead of me!

It might surprise some to learn that there are some pretty slummy places in the West End. My sublet on the lower end of **May Street**, toward Danforth, comes to mind. I woke up one night to find the apartment filled with smoke and **fire engines** outside because the drunk downstairs had passed out with something cooking on the stove. Then there was the roach-infested basement on the ocean end of **Brackett Street** that was flooded when frozen pipes burst; shortly after I moved out, an **arsonist** torched it to the ground. Recently, there was **Dow Street**, with its intriguing mix of drunks, druggies and "gangstas." I lived right around the corner from the mysterious **Horton Place**, one of those moldering, invisible parts of the city that most people never know about. Even so, my tiny apartment on Dow Street was pleasant enough, and it even had a **faux brick wall** in the kitchen/living room.

The apartment on **Crescent Street** was worth it for the breathtaking view of the **White Mountains**, and for the urban matrix below the hill that I nicknamed "**The Scuzzy Forest**" on account of its foot traffic and debris. "Heat included" was sort of a joke on Crescent Street, considering the frigid indoor temperatures.

My favorite apartment was on **Ellsworth Street**. It was on a steep hill near **Maine Med**, and my second-floor apartment had panoramic views, the rent was fairly cheap and it was like a sauna in the winter. I got to be good friends with **Ray**, the ancient, retired fisherman around the corner who sat under a big tree all summer and never left his yard. He was the unofficial **guru** of the neighborhood.

Odd things happen in apartments, though. Like the time I came home on Lewis Street to find the kitchen blanketed in flour, as if there had been an explosion. Turned out my roommate at the time had made a holiday **gingerbread house** for the restaurant where he worked. Or the time on Ellsworth Street when my cats growled at the window, and I realized that beyond the fogged-up glass some guy was sitting on my **fire escape** drinking beer. How cozy. Another time I had to call an animal control officer to come get the growling, possibly **rabid dog** who appeared on my fire escape, and then somehow ended up in the downstairs hall, effectively imprisoning me in my own apartment. On Dow Street I was privy to the crystal-clear, **X-rated conversations** of a neighboring CB radio fanatic that came in over my stereo speakers.

I've come full circle — I'm back on **Pine Street** in a sunny apartment that's as quiet as a law school library. A few years ago, **Nance Parker** wrote and staged a Shoestring Theater play called "All My Life I've Lived In The West End." Boy, could I relate to that title.

Annie Seikonia is a rolling stone who gathers no moss.

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**Sat March 29** - DJ Bob Look

**Fri April 4** - Jean Meike, acoustic soloist

**Fri April 11** - Women in Harmony - karaoke night

**Fri April 18** - Squish, Pearl & Havatit Blues Project

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• DAVID GOULET, tenor  
• ROBERT HONEYSUCKER, baritone

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## Artists for Animals

A donated design is needed for a 1997 fundraising project for The Coastal Humane Society, Inc., a non-profit organization providing needed shelter and care for animals in fourteen midcoast communities. The artist selected will be publicly acknowledged.

Please call 833-5480 or 725-4746 by April 15 for further information.

# calendar

Submissions for the calendar must be received in writing by the Thursday prior to publication. Send your calendar listings to Zoë Miller, Casco Bay Weekly, 561 Congress St., Portland, ME 04101.



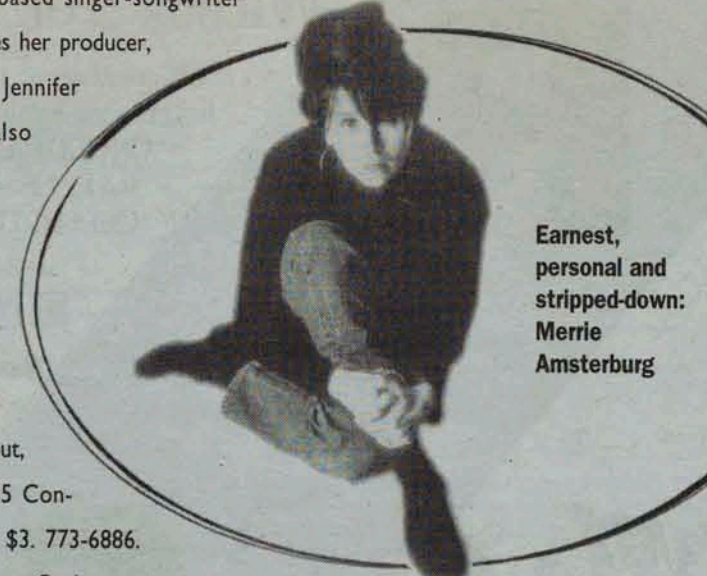
"Untitled," by MECA student Mary Schmaling

**friday 28** Who would've known that March would bring so much artistic talent to Portland? First there's the **MECA Merit Scholarship Competition**, featuring work by junior and senior MECA students on display March 27-30 at the MECA Building, 522 Congress St. Just up the street, MECA presents the **4th Annual Maine High School Art Competition**, a juried multimedia show featuring the work of high school students from all over the state. The competition shows March 27 through April 5 at the Baxter Gallery, 619 Congress St. An awards ceremony will be held April 5 from 2-4 p.m. 775-3052.

**thursday 27** For all you architecture buffs, Portland Museum of Art joins forces with Portland's ARCHITALX Committee to bring five of the world's best architects to share their knowledge and passion in the **ARCHITALX Lecture Series**. Diane Lewis of New York's Cooper Union kicks off the series with a talk on "The Roof, the Wall, the Plinth." At PMA, 7 Congress Sq., at 7 p.m. Suggested donation: \$2. 775-6148. **saturday 29** Even with spring on our minds, who can resist a little figure-skating magic? Catch the dazzling footwork of Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton and Paul Wylie, along with a team of Olympic and world-class skaters at **Discover Stars on Ice** March 29 & 30. At the Portland Civic Center, at 7:30 p.m. (Sold out). Also March 30 at 3 p.m. (Tix still available.) Tix: \$25-\$45. 775-3458. **sunday 30** If you think your family life is complicated, try Portland Stage Company's latest production "The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams' autobiographical tale of a Southern family during the Depression. At 25A Forest Ave., at 2 & 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$18-\$29 (discounts available). "The Glass Menagerie" shows through April 20. 774-0465. **monday 31** In Raúl Ruiz's sexy, absurdist comedy "Three Lives and Only One Death," Marcello Mastroianni plays four men in one body. Through the course of his adventures as a salesman, professor, butler and industrialist, we learn that sometimes what we imagine ourselves to be can become who we are. At The Movies, 10 Exchange St., at 5, 9 p.m. "Three Lives and Only One Death" shows March 29-April 1. Tix: \$4.25. 772-9600. **tuesday 1** Have you always yearned to better understand jazz? Portland Concert Association has the answer: **Herb Pomeroy Group**. Attend a "listeners' lecture on jazz" where Pomeroy will present the work of Duke Ellington at Corthell Concert Hall, USM campus, Gorham, at 7 p.m. He's also offering jazz clinics and a master class. (For info, call PCA at 773-3150.) Then catch the legendary trumpeter and big band leader in concert April 3 at State Street Church, 159 State St., at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$16. 842-0800. **wednesday 2** After months of collaboration between a group of Maine composers, including Jerry Bowder and Tom Myron, the Portland Symphony Orchestra unveils "The Maine Collage," a work of seven short movements each by a different composer. The PSO will also perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland City Hall, at 7:30 p.m. Tix: \$17-\$37. "Meet the Composers" prior to the show from 6:30-7 p.m. 842-0800.

**thursday 3** Boston-based singer-songwriter **Merrie Amsterburg** shares her producer, Mike Deneen, with the likes of Jennifer Trynin and Aimee Mann. She also shares their stripped-down, earnest aesthetic. Amsterburg's sound is both a little bit folk and pop, and she uses her superbly sweet voice to woo you into her downbeat, personal songs. She'll play cuts from her debut, "Season of Rain," at Raoul's, 865 Congress St., Portland, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$3. 773-6886.

**friday 4** Portland Symphony Orchestra wants to take you on a ride through your favorite Western-themed movies and musicals with "Romance of the West," a pops concert including John Williams' "Cowboy Overture" and "The Lone Ranger Theme," otherwise known as "The William Tell Overture." Police Chief Michael Chitwood will make his conducting debut. At Merrill Auditorium, Portland City Hall, at 8 p.m. Tix: \$17-\$37. 842-0800. **saturday 5** Got an old house that could use a little spiffing up? Try Greater Portland Landmarks' **Old House Trade Show**, where you'll get to meet the region's finest craftspeople and restorers, see free demonstrations on landscaping, faux finishing, dealing with lead paint and painted surfaces and have a free 15-minute consultation with experts from Landmarks' Advisory Service. At 58 Fore St., from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission: \$5. 774-5561.



Earnest, personal and stripped-down: Merrie Amsterburg

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**  
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**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**  
**Take Back the Night Rally and March**  
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

formers to participate in his ongoing community dance-theater project. Must be physically fit. 871-9056.

**Family Dance on New Night** Chem-free and fun-filled dancing for the whole family and for singles the 3rd Sat of the month. Bring your favorite music on tape or CD to guarantee a dance that will please you. At the Swedenborgian Church, 302 Stevens Ave. Portland, from 6-10 pm. Cost: \$5 (\$3 kids/\$10 family). 772-8277.

**Line Dancing** Friday nights from 7-8:30 pm. At the YWCA, 87 Spring St. Portland. Ages 10 and up. For details, call Lauretta Gregoire at 874-1130 ext. 3010.

**Maine Ballroom Dance Studio** 614A Congress St. Portland, offers a dance party every Saturday night, from 8 pm-midnight. 773-0002.

**Mainiac Swing Dance Society** presents a night of dancing the 1st Fri of every month. At Presumpscot Grange, outer Forest Ave across from Tortilla Flats, from 9 pm-midnight. Swing dance lesson at 8 pm. Cost: \$6. Next dance: April 4, 828-1795.

**Maplewood Dance Center** 383 Warren Ave. Portland, is open every night for dancing. Ballroom dancing to big band sounds Fri & Sat at 7 pm. Country line dancing Thurs from 7-9 pm. Swing dancing the third Tuesday of every month with Mainiac Swing Dance Society (lesson at 7 pm). Line dance classes Tues-Fri from 10-11:30 am and 12-3:30 pm. Levels vary. 797-2891 or 878-0584.

**Meditative Belly Dance** Want to learn to shimmy and shake? Then take belly dancing classes with Josie at 25A Forest Ave. Portland, Wed 6:45-8 pm (any level) or Tues 6:30-8 pm (intermediate level, by invitation only). Workshops also available. For more information, call 828-6571 and ask for Josie.

**New Dance Studio** 61 Pleasant St. Portland, offers modern dance classes for adults and children (ages 4-17). Faculty includes Lisa Hicks, Gwyneth Jones, Daniel McCusker and Paul Sarvis. For a free brochure, call 780-0554.

**Star of Sea Dance Kids** learn the basics of tap, jazz and ballet. Wednesdays from 3:30-4:15 pm (4-6 years) and 5:15-7 pm at Riverton Community Center, 1600 Forest Ave. Portland. Cost: \$15 per month. Sponsored by Portland Parks and Recreation. 874-8455.

## events

**The Harlem Globetrotters** March 27. At the Civic Center, Portland, at 7:30 pm. Tix: \$12.50-\$16. 775-3458.

**Pool Sharks for Kids** March 27. A pool tournament to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Portland. At the Portland Club, 156 State St. Portland, at 5:30 pm. Registration and trick shot demo by pro Marty Carey at 5 pm. Italian buffet dinner. 761-4477.

**Portland Pirates Games** March 28: Against Providence at 7:30 pm. At the Civic Center, Portland. Tix: \$8-\$10-\$13 (\$6.50-\$5 kids/seniors). 775-3458.

**Stars on Ice** March 29 & 30. At the Civic Center, Portland. March 29 at 7:30 pm (sold out), March 30 at 3 pm. Tix: \$25-\$45. 775-3458.

**Open Poetry Reading** March 31. Oak Street Theatre and Cafe Review magazine present a poetry reading featuring Ted and Ruth Booke hosted by Steve Luttrell. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St. Portland, at 8 pm. Sign-ups at 7:30 pm. 775-5103.

**Sea Dogs Welcome Banquet** April 2. An informal night of fun, food and baseball, to benefit Youth Alternatives. At Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St. from 1-4 pm. Tix: \$20 (\$10 kids). 874-1175.

**Meca-Fest** April 5. Maine College of Art holds an open house event featuring studio art demonstrations, art-making activities for kids, an art sale, an art show from continuing studies students and faculty, and a panel discussion with working graduates, faculty and students. At the Meca Building, 522 Congress St. Portland, from 10 am-2 pm. Free. 775-5098.

**Old House Trade Show** April 5. Greater Portland Landmarks presents a chance to meet the region's finest craftspeople and restorers. Free demonstrations on landscaping, faux finishing, dealing with lead paint and painted surfaces. Free 15-minute consultations with experts from Landmarks' Advisory Service. At 58 Fore St. Portland, from 9 am-5 pm. Admission: \$5. 774-5561.

**Women: Get the Skills to Pay the Bills** April 5. The 4th annual conference for women to explore trade and technical careers. With keynote speaker Ronnie Sandler or Compliance U.S.A. At Portland Arts & Technology High School, 196 Allen Ave. Portland, from 8:30 am-3 pm. Free. Light breakfast and lunch provided. To register, call 874-8160.

**Workout For Hope** April 5. Join top instructors from more than 15 area clubs in a workout to raise money for fighting HIV/AIDS and related cancers. At the Portland Athletic Club, U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. Registration 8 am, workout from 9 am-noon. To receive a sponsor form, call City of Hope's New England office at 1-800-454-0780.

**Chocolate Lovers' Fling** April 6. Sexual Assault Response Services holds its 11th annual fundrais-

er. At Holiday Inn By the Bay, 88 Spring St. from 1-4 pm. Tix: \$15. 799-9020.

**Sunday Night Fever** April 6. A Mad Horse Theatre fundraiser disco party with music from Motor Booty Affair. At Radisson Eastland Hotel, 157 High St. Portland. 878-3547.

**Unplugged: An Evening of Improvisational Comedy** April 10-12. LaughingStock Comedy Company, featuring Lesley Abrams, Tim Ferrell and Dean Steeves. At Oak Street Theatre, 92 Oak St. Portland, at 8 pm. Tix: \$12. 775-5103.

**The Maine Historical Society 175th Anniversary Gala** April 11. The Maine Historical Society celebrates with an evening of dining, dancing and good cheer. Music by the Bo Winkler Orchestra. At the Pavilion, 188 Middle St. Portland, at 6:45 pm. Tix: \$100. 774-1822.

**College Days Spring Break** April 12. USM converts its campus center into a tropical setting with sand, palms and a steel drum band. Featuring a silent auction. At USM's Portland Campus Center, from 6-9 pm. Tix: \$25. Proceeds benefit USM's scholarship fund. 780-4429.

**Trombone Day** April 12. A day of workshops, clinics and group ensemble playing, concluding with an evening concert by Don Doane, the USM jazz ensemble and the Maine Bones. At Corthell Concert Hall, USM Campus, Gorham, at 10 am-5 pm. Trombone Magnus performs a matinee concert at 5 pm. Mass trombone choir readings at 10:15 am and 3:30 pm. Cost: \$10 (\$7 students). Evening concert only: \$4 (\$2 seniors/students). Both: \$12 (\$8 students). 780-5555.

## art openings

**Bowdoin College Museum of Art Walker Art Building**, Brunswick. Opening reception and preview for "Appeal To This Age: Photography of the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968." April 2 from 8-10 pm. Julian Bond, of the University of Virginia, gives a lecture, "Crossing the Color Line," at Kresge Auditorium, Visual Arts Center, at 7:30 pm. Shows through June 1. Opening reception and preview for "Within the Atrium: A Context for Roman Daily Life." April 2 from 8-10 pm. James L. Franklin, Jr., professor of Classical Studies at Indiana University, gives a lecture, "Pompeii: The Natural History of the Atrium House." April 8, at Beam Classroom, Visual Arts Center, at 7:30 pm. Shows through June 8. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Mon-Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3275.

**Davidson & Daughters** 148 High St. Portland. Opening reception for work by Susan Amos, Barbara Sjogren and Constance Rush. March 27 from 5-8 pm. Shows through April 19. Hours: Tues-Sat 11 am-6 pm. 780-0766.

**Hole in the Wall Studios** Route 302, Raymond. Opening reception for new works by Marilyn Blinkhorn, April 11 from 6-9 pm. Shows through May 27. A group show of gallery artists, including Cynthia Morse, Lori Austill, Evelyn Winter, Dave Hall and Lou Mastro, shows through March 31. Hours: 9:30 am-6 pm daily (closed Tues). 655-4952.

**L/A Arts Art Exhibit** Opening reception for exhibition of artwork from 55 Maine artists, March 28 from 5:30-7:30 with a gallery talk by Phil Isaacson. Shows March 20 through May 2. At the Lewiston-Auburn College Atrium Gallery, 51 Westminster St. Lewiston. Hours: Mon-Thurs 8 am-8 pm, Fri 8 am-4:30 pm. 1-800-639-2919.

## now showing

**Area Gallery** USM Campus Center, Portland. "Senior Thesis Exhibitions" shows through May 9. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7 am-10 pm, Fri 7 am-7 pm, Sat 9 am-5 pm. 780-5409.

**Bayview Gallery** 75 Market St. Portland. "Away From Realism," paintings by John Bisognano, Stephanie Blackstock and Sally Stanton, shows through April 12. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am-5:30 pm. 1-800-244-3007.

**Bowdoin College Museum of Art Walker Art Building**, Brunswick. The museum is open to the public free of charge. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Mon-Sun 2-5 pm. 725-3275.

**"Modern Art: Selections from the Permanent Collection"** Shows through April 27.

**Center For Maine History** presents a three-part exhibition on the history of Maine Native American carving and basket making. "Growth Rings: 200 Years of Basketry, Carving and Wabanaki Enterprise," "Trees and Tradition: Brown Ash and Maine Native American Basketmaking" and "Spirits in the Wood: Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Root Clubs." 489 Congress St. Portland. 879-0427.

**Coffee By Design** 620 Congress St. Portland. "Scattered Scapes," paintings by Cindy Mackay, shows through April 27. Hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-8 pm, Sat 8 am-8 pm, Sun 8 am-7 pm. 772-5533.

**Community Chiopracic of Maine** 222 St. John St. Portland. "Alignment," works by Dave G. Hall, Dana Nelson, Lori Austill and Marilyn Blinkhorn, shows through March 31. Hours: by appointment. 774-2663.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

## tasty tapas

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## Sportland J. BARRY MOTHE

### Swingin' into spring

My golf season got off to a disappointing start last week.

I showed up solo at Pinehurst No. 2, a historic, pine tree-lined course in the North Carolina sandhills that I've always dreamed of playing. My first official swing of the season, on the par-4, 422-yard opening hole, produced a slicing, 198-yard drive that dribbled to the edge of the woods. An average 4-iron shot and a crisp 9-iron got me within 60 feet of the cup. Sadly, it took three silly putts to hole out with a six, and suddenly I had launched another round with yet another double bogey.

Fortunately, I didn't have long to wallow in frustration, since the next hole had already popped up on the screen in front of me. I was playing Pinehurst No. 2, but wasn't actually at Pinehurst No. 2; I was letting it rip from the stuffy confines of my trellis-framed, full-swing golf simulator stall at Fore Season Golf on Forest Avenue. It's that time of year, after all, when golfers, whether they're casual or serious, rich or almost poor, start itching for a round. I decided that if I couldn't afford a real escape — and I can't — that I would drive out to Fore Season and try to lose myself in the synthetic fantasy of indoor simulated golf. I tried to put myself in the mood by changing out of a flannel shirt and throwing on a short-sleeved shirt and a sleeveless sweater vest. But I felt a little strange, and a little cold with my bare arms against the nylon lining of my winter jacket, walking across the snow and ice through the March evening darkness with my golf bag slung over my shoulder.

Due to a dangerous mixture of impatience and distraction, and occasional alienation from the technology, I notched a 10 and a 9 on the front nine and racked-up two brutal 11s on the back nine that killed the round.

Simulation of golf available for snow-country fanatics. As a promotional banner hanging over the bar boasts, "No Rain, Heat or Mosquitoes Here."

In simulated golf, a player hits a regulation golf ball off a driving range-style mat into a canvas screen bearing a simulated ground-level view of authentic golf holes. A tracking and graphic system reads the force and spin of the ball and turns it into a "shot" that flies onto the screen in front of you, bounces, rolls and finally comes to a stop. Each shot is measured for yardage, and the image changes on the screen in front of you as you move down the fairway. Shots into the woods lead to a simulated knocking sound and a recorded voice saying, "Was that a tree?" The simulators also pipe in sounds of birds chirping and frogs croaking. It's not exactly virtual reality, but it beats banging balls into a hanging blanket in the basement.

The simulators rent for \$24 an hour and offer 17 different courses to play. Most of them, like California's Pebble Beach, Castle Pines in Colorado and Troon North in Arizona, are well-known sites that host professional tournaments. Others, like Banff Springs in Canada, are known for spectacular views and dramatic vistas. Some, like the Bountiful Municipal, supposedly set in Utah, are fantasy creations. It takes about an hour for one person to play an 18-hole round, putts and all. Shorter versions without putts can also be arranged on the computer keyboard at each simulator.

My debut lasted a little over an hour. I hurried through the closing holes, full of prickly frustration, and finished with a 118, a whopping 46 over par. (Outdoors, I'm usually in the low-to-mid-'80s.) As usual, my round was sabotaged by a few bad holes. Due to a dangerous mixture of impatience and distraction, and occasional alienation from the technology, I notched a 10 and a 9 on the front nine and racked-up two brutal 11s on the back nine that killed the round.

The putting, as a Fore Season employee sympathetically confessed before sending me off on my round, is the weakest part of the simulation. The tracer reading the speed and roll of the putts into the canvas screen is often unpredictable, and at times downright loony. Breaking one of the first rules of playing better golf, I gave up on many holes and started putting sloppily with the bottom edge of my pitching wedge, with even more disastrous results.

My bad habits, of course, needed no simulation.

J. Barry Mothes is a writer living in Portland.

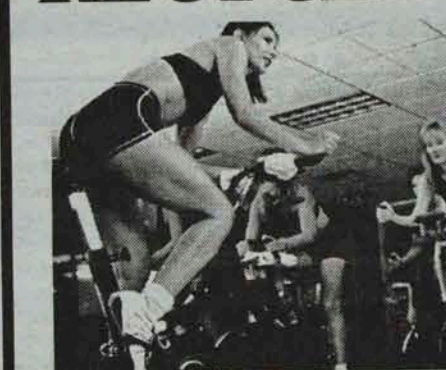
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**STONE COAST BREWING COMPANY.** Featuring a full service nonsmoking restaurant with a menu that has something for everyone. From a quick burger, sandwich or one of our chef's selections of fresh seafood or charbroiled sirloin. Serving Lunch and Dinner 11:30am-10pm Sun-Thur and until 12am Fri & Sat. For something special try our spectacular Sunday Brunch Buffet with live Jazz from 11am-2pm. Next to the Civic Center and the Old Port, with plenty of free parking. 14 York St., Goham's Corner, Portland. 773-BEER.

### SEAFOOD

**DOWN-EAST VILLAGE RESTAURANT.** The Down-East Restaurant is known far and wide for its excellent cuisine. We offer a range of beautifully prepared selections, including fresh seafood, which makes up a large part of our menu. You'll find the atmosphere of the dining room reminiscent of Yarmouth's ship-building days gone by. Breakfast, lunch and dinner served daily. Tuesday evenings, Jan. through May, we celebrate with an ever changing authentic ethnic buffet menu. (Cocktails, beer and wine are served.) 31 U.S. Rt. 1, Yarmouth. 846-5161.

**J'S OYSTER.** White linen quality dining in a relaxed atmosphere. Shellfish and pasta dishes our specialty. Lovely view of Portland's working harbor. MC/ Visa/ Discover accepted. Parking in adjacent lot. 5 Portland Pier, Portland. 774-4828.

### CAFE

**ACCESS INTERNET CAFE.** Portland's first and largest information - highway coffee house. Features the gambit of hot and cold beverages along with assorted pastries, muffins, and bagels. Now serving lunches, including sandwiches, lasagna, and pasta salads. Open Mon-Thur. 10a.m.-11p.m.; Fri-Sat, 10a.m.-1a.m.; and Sun, 10a.m.-9p.m. 500 Forest Ave., Portland. (207)874-2424. <http://www.acafe.com>

**BARBARA'S KITCHEN AND CAFE.** Chef Barbara Winthrop's neighborhood breakfast and lunch place in a setting more upscale than a diner. Specials for Mar. 22-29: Soups- crab & scallop bisque with basil; wild mushroom; and curried lentil. Sandwiches - Angus beef steak with grilled focaccia, horseradish mayo, boursin and tomato; vegetarian with hummus, cucumber spouts, cheddar, swiss, and pesto mayo. Pasta - red pepper linguini with grilled chicken, prosciutto and sun-dried tomatoes. Featured Omelette: goat cheese, spinach, and roasted red pepper. Catering for all occasions. Cafe available for private parties. Open Tues.-Fri. 7-2; Sat.-Sun. 8-2; Closed Mon. 388 Cottage Rd., S. Portland. Cafe: 767-6313; Fax: 799-5037.

**BLACK TIE.** 870 Broadway, South Portland. Discover South Portland's most interesting lunch spot! Featuring hearty soups and sandwiches, healthy salads, entrees and fantastic bakery items. Daily specials - always! Dine-in or take-out. Open Monday-Friday 7:30-3:00. 799-7119.

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Mall and Downtown Portland. 781 County Road (Route #22), Westbrook. 775-4818.

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**BECKY'S ON HOBSON'S WHARF.** Breakfast, lunch and now serving dinner Tuesday-Saturday evenings until 9pm. Hours: Tuesday-Friday 4am-9pm, Friday midnight-Saturday 9pm, Saturday midnight-Sunday 1pm, Monday 4am-2pm. Parking. X 390 Commercial St., Portland. 773-7070.

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### CHINESE

**ORIENTAL TABLE.** Serving reasonably priced lunch specials & dinner with a variety of appetizer & entree selections including seafood & vegetarian dishes. Entrees range from \$4.25 - \$10.75. Smoking & non-smoking. Featured in Maine Sunday Telegram's Taste & Tell section. Gift Certificates Available. Hrs. Sun 12-9pm, Mon-Thurs. 11:30-9pm, Fri & Sat 11:30-10pm. 106 Exchange St. 775-3388.

### FRENCH

**AUBERGINE BISTRO-WINE BAR.** A true Parisian Bistro in the heart of Portland. Cuisinier David Grant prepares French Bistro dishes such as RumpSteak with Red Leek Bearnaise and Crispy Salmon with Spinach Sabayon in a casually elegant atmosphere. Discover new enjoyment with David's refreshing approach to food & wine. Truly Portland's answer for a new dining experience. 874-0680. 555 Congress St.

**LE BISTRO DU LAC.** Frank & Jane Leconte invite you into their historic Raymond home for home cooking from the heart of France. Thursday nights Crêpe Menu, Sunday nights Roast Leg of Lamb. Serving dinner Thursdays through Sundays, 5-9pm. Reservations recommended. 207-655-4100. Visa, MC, AMEX. Corner of Res 302 & 85, Raymond.

### ECCLECTIC

**THE AUDUBON ROOM.** Ocean views, elegant & intimate atmosphere, fine dining featuring New American Cuisine. House specialties include Maine Lobster Bisque, Grilled Seafoods, Vegetarian Pastas, Pan-seared Crabcakes & Rack of Lamb. Sinful, handmade desserts may include Pomegranate Sorbet, Capuccino Ice Cream or White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Tart. Open daily; breakfast, lunch, dinners from 6:00pm. Reservations recommended. Off premise catering. MC, VISA, AMEX, Discover. Inn by the Sea, Cape Elizabeth. 767-0888.

**THE BARKING SQUIRREL - CAFE IN THE PARK.** Deering Oaks Park, Portland. Portland's answer to "Tavern on the Green." Situated in an historic brick and stone building overlooking a pond and gardens. Enjoy lunch, a candlelit dinner or Sunday brunch next to our huge, crackling fireplace. Affordable, home-made, multi-ethnic and American Cuisine starting at \$1.50. Kid's menu. Ideal for holiday parties. Ice skate rentals. Closed Mon except holidays, Tue & Wed 10am-8pm, Thur-Fri 10am-9pm, Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 9am-7pm. Parking. Visa & MC. 774-5514.

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**BRAY'S BREWPUB & EATERY.** Serving lunch, dinner, pub-fare, summer BBQ and fresh ales brewed on the premises. Occupying a 120-year-old Victorian farmhouse, Bray's emanates a comfortable atmosphere of old-fashioned charm and simplicity. Menu sampling

includes lobster stew or fresh steamed mussels for appetizers; grilled salmon or roast beef and boursin cheese sandwiches for lunch; lamb kabobs or broiled sea scallops for dinner; and pub-fare with sausage platters and pulled pork sandwiches. Bray's Ales, available on tap throughout Portland, include Brandy Pond Ale, Old Church Pale Ale, and Pleasant Mountain Porter. Available for functions. Open year-round. Only 45 minutes from downtown Portland on Rt. 302 at Rt. 35 in Naples. (207)693-6806.

**CAFE ALWAYS.** 47 Middle St., 774-9399. Casually elegant atmosphere and daily changing menu of Modern American Cuisine with "no food rules" such as center cut pork chops with pecan orange barbecue sauce and sweet potato salad. Also New York sirloin with Stilton - sun dried tomato butter. Open for dinner Wed. - Sun. starting at 5pm, and Sunday brunch 10am-3pm. Gift certificates and catering available. Voted "Most Romantic Restaurant" by Casco Bay Weekly. Free parking in the lot adjacent to the restaurant. CC, LL, R.

**GREAT LOST BEAR.** Full bar - now featuring 50 beers on tap. Extensive menu... sandwiches, soups, salads, platters. Lunch or dinner in the mysterious Woodfords area. MC, Visa, Amex accepted. Parking. 540 Forest Ave. Portland. 772-0300.

**HUGO'S BISTRO.** Dinner Tuesday - Saturday from 5-15. Innovative menu changes every four weeks, featuring fresh seafood and interesting vegetarian dishes. Provocative atmosphere. Parking. Reservations accepted. Major credit cards accepted. Major credit cards accepted. 88 Middle Street, Portland, 774-8538.

**PERFETTO.** 28 Exchange St., Portland. 828-0001. Funky twist of W.O.W. mixed from flavors of the entire Mediterranean region by the new chef formerly of prestigious San Francisco restaurants. Dinner entrees like oven roasted portobello stuffed with North African spiced cous-cous to fresh loose seafood ravioli range from \$12-\$16. Our commitment to freshness and local fare allows for a changing menu and daily specials. Experience an approachable wine list and our full bar. Lunch Monday-Friday 11:30-3:00 and dinner begins at 5:30 Monday-Saturday. Celebrate our new Sunday brunch from 10-3 with a homemade shrimp bloody mary.

**SILLY'S.** The restaurant that defies description. We have everything from charbroiled burgers and shish kabob, hand cut fries, BBQ and jerk chicken, to a wide variety of pizza, vegetarian plates, milkshakes, desserts, and our famous rolled up abuduhals made with fresh ingredients daily. A lively and funky atmosphere with a patio out back. Beer, wine and occasionally live music. Free delivery to Portland and Rt. 1/Rt. 88 Falmouth. Mon-Sat 10-10. 42 Washington Ave. Portland. 772-0360.

**TABITHA JEANS.** 94 Free St., 780-8966. Maine's most cosmopolitan restaurant offering an eclectic menu with an emphasis on seafood and vegetarian dishes made with the freshest ingredients, friendly attentive service, an extensive wine list. 16 wines by the glass. Smoke free. Parking.

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**RACHEL'S WOOD GRILL.** Come enjoy inventive cuisine delicately seasoned with wood smoke and cooked the way God intended, over flame. Whether you're looking for a quick but memorable lunch or inspired dinner fare served in an elegantly unpretentious atmosphere. Stop in, by you won't be disappointed. Serving lunch & dinner. Beer & Wine

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**NORM'S BAR BQ.** "Portland's Best New Restaurant" featuring Norm's Wicked Good Sauce, Smoked Ribs, Fried Chicken, Black Bean Soup, BBQ Sandwiches, Portland. 773-7146.

Catfish and daily Tapas. Beer & Wine available. Lunch and Dinner Tues-Thur 12-10, Fri & Sat 12-11, Sun 3-9. Closed Mondays. No Credit Cards. 43 Middle St., Portland. 207-774-6711.

**UPTOWN BILLY'S BARBEQUE.** Gold Medal Winner "First in Food" Portland Dining Guide. Portland's only Apple Wood Smoked Ribs, Beef Brisket, Pulled Pork, Links and Chicken. Expanded menu featuring Jambalaya, Chops, Steak, Blackened Catfish, Quesadillas and more! Plus awesome appetizers like Jerk Wings, Fried Green Tomatoes and the best grilled Shrimp in the world! Express take out lunch (most items under \$5) Full bar, great Happy Hour. Smoking at the bar. Entertainment Thurs-Sat, no cover. Lunch Tues-Fri 11:30-4, Dinner Tues-Sat: #1 Forest Ave. (just off Congress) Amex, MC, Visa, Discover, Diners. 780-0141.

### MEXICAN

**GRANNY'S BURRITOS.** 10 Exchange Street Mall. 761-0751. Preparing all of your Mexican favorites: Burritos, Quesadillas, Nachos & more.

**IGUANA BAY MEXICAN RESTAURANT.** Exciting Tex-Mex/Southwestern menu in a tropical Mexico setting. Great margaritas, specialty tequilas, and terrific appetizers. Happy hour Mon-Sat from 4-6pm with free sampler buffet. Sunday brunch 11am-2pm. Open every day 11am-11pm. MC, VISA, AMEX, Discover. Diners Club. 196 US Rte 1, Falmouth at the Portland Athletic Club. 781-5308.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Congregation Bet Ha'am 81 Westbrook St., So. Portland. "Harvest of the Spirit." Congregation Bet Ha'am's annual art exhibition, shows through March 30. Hours: Tues-Fri 10 am-3 pm and before and after Sabbath services. 879-0028.

Connections: Objects & Images, Inc. 56 Maine St., Brunswick. Group show of gallery artists shows through March 29. Hours: Tues-Sat 10 am-5 pm. 725-1399.

Foghorn Gallery 4 Clinton St., Portland. International folk art, Oaxacary wood carvings, black pottery and crafts of indigenous peoples. By appointment. 781-2553.

Forrest Cafe 201 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. Paintings by Kate Merrick. Ongoing. Hours: Sun-Thurs 7 am-3 pm, Fri-Sat 7 am-7 pm. 781-4931.

Free Street Taverna 128 Free St., Portland. Prints by Kara Taylor show through March 30. Hours: Mon 11 am-4 pm, Tues-Sat 11 am-10 pm. 774-1114.

Gallery Music 21 Forest Ave., Portland. "Trees, Rocks, Water," paintings and works on paper by Lavender. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2693.

Granny Killams 55 Market St., Portland. Sculptures by Stephen Pullan IV. Ongoing. For info on Granny's, call Squire Morgans at 774-5246.

Greenhut Galleries 146 Middle St., Portland. A group show of work by gallery artists including Connie Hayes, Glenn Renell, Alison Goodwin, Phil Barter, Alec Richardson, Sarah Knock, Ed Douglas, Heidi Gerquest and Phil Poirier, shows through March 31. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5:30 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm. 772-2693.

Icon 19 Mason St., Brunswick. New paintings by Robert Hamilton shows through April 9. Hours: Mon-Fri 1-5 pm, Sat 1-4 pm. 725-8157.

Java Joe's 13 Exchange St., Portland. Photographs by Sara Sutter show through April 15. Hours: Mon-Thurs 7:30 am-11 pm, Fri 7:30 am-midnight, Sat 9 am-midnight, Sun 9 am-10 pm. 761-5637.

The Jones Museum of Glass and Ceramics Douglas Hill, Sebago. Cost: \$25. Reservations suggested. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 1-5 pm. Cost: \$5 (\$3 students). 787-3370.

June Fitzpatrick Gallery 112 High St., Portland. "Ceramic Sculpture," by Sharon Townsend, shows through April 5. "New Work," paintings and prints by Alice Spencer, shows through April 5. Hours: Tues-Sat noon-5 pm. 772-1961.

Kaleidoscope Gallery Route 25, Gorham. Fine art, pottery, sculpture, jewelry and crafts by local artists. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-4 pm. 839-6926.

Katahdin Restaurant 106 High St., Portland. "At Play & Other Pursuits," photographs by Martha Mickles, show through April 17. Hours: Mon-Thurs 5-9:30 pm, Fri & Sat 5:10-30 pm. 799-4341.

Maine Audubon Society Gileland Farm Sanctuary, 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. Nature photography by Sean Palfrey show through March 31. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. 781-2330.

Margarita's Restaurant 242 St. John St., Portland. Original watercolors by Bonnie Brown. Ongoing. Hours: 4-11 pm daily. 874-6444.

Parfetto's Restaurant 28 Exchange St., Portland. "Almost Edible," paintings by Kate Merrick, ongoing. Hours: Mon-Sun 11 am-11 pm. 828-0001.

Portland Museum of Art 7 Congress Sq., Portland. Hours: Tues, Wed, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Thurs-Fri 10 am-9 pm, Sun noon-5 pm. Admission: \$6 adults, \$5 students/seniors, \$1 youth 6-12 years. Museum admission is free 5-9 pm every Friday evening. 775-6148 or 1-800-639-4067.

• "From Monet to Matisse: The Origins of Modernism" A complete overview of French art from early impressionism through Neo-impressionism to Fauvism. Ongoing.

• "A Legacy for Maine: Selections from the Elizabeth B. Noyce Collection," including works by Fitz Hugh Lane, Albert Bierstadt, Child Hassam, George Bellows, Rockwell Kent and Andrew Wyeth from the recently deceased philanthropist's bequest to the museum. Ongoing.

• "The Shores of a Dream: Yasuo Kuniyoshi's Early Works in America" A collection of fanciful, often humorous works by Japanese-American artist Yasuo Kuniyoshi. The ink drawings and oil paintings were completed by Kuniyoshi between 1921 and 1925 while at the Hamilton Easter Field art colony in Ogunquit, Maine. Shows through March 30.

• "The Hamilton Easter Field Art Foundation Collection Showing in conjunction with 'The Shores of a Dream' exhibition. The collection includes works by Peggy Bacon, Stuart Davis, and Marsden Hartley. Shows through March 30.

• "Robert Indiana: Decade 'Decade,'" created in 1971, is a portfolio of ten silkscreens of Indiana's most important paintings from the 1960s. Shows through April 13.

• "Celebrate Youth Art Month" More than 100 works from students statewide. Shows through March 30.

• "Lasting Impression" Gelatin plate prints by late Maine artist Francis S. Merritt. Merritt was an educator and former director of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle. Shows through May 11.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

## Women on the verge

"Pushing Through" an affecting look at hopelessness, Mid-East-style

■ MARY STAMATEL

Shauna Kanter's play "Pushing Through," at Oak Street Theatre, puts a human face on an issue that's usually front-page, above-the-fold news — the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Told through six female actors that function as symbols rather than characters, the piece is a testimony — in dance, music and spoken word — to the hopelessness of peace in the Holy Land. It has powerful moments that punch the heart and cripple the mind with images of hatred, grief and fear, and offers no answers and no hope.

One thing it does offer is controversy, even in Portland; when Michael Levine, Oak Street artistic director, opted to censor a scene depicting Jewish women being cruel to Palestinian women, it made headlines. But the intent of this bleak play is to present both sides of the story evenly — which it manages to do — something not often done in the American media. Perhaps the least bleak aspect of "Pushing Through" is that the Palestinian experience is presented as a parallel to the suffering of 20th century Jews, which may explain why it ripples many politically minded Jewish groups.

Directed by Odelle Bowman and accompanied by a superb, haunting and occasionally overpowering musical score by Barb Truex, "Pushing Through" is 90 minutes of sight and sound that aims at an emotional retooling of the two sides by pointing out their similarities. The action follows two families' women, one Jewish and the other Palestinian. We see three generations endure history, from Hitler's Berlin and the founding of Israel in 1948 to the present day. Ania (Asch Gregory) is a survivor of the Jewish Holocaust, and Hanan (Michele Livermore Wigton) and her sister, Saida (Josie Conte), are Palestinians displaced by the arrival of the survivors in the new state of Israel. Ania's daughter, Sarah (Sharon Wilke), is from the generation that fought and won the Six Day War. Ania's granddaughter, Hagar (Anna Edmondson), and Hana's daughter, Raymonda (Andrea Antognoni), are the generation that



will create the future.

The play is a collection of archetypal events: the nighttime flight of German Jewry, the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes, a marketplace encounter, a bus bombing, the demolition of a home and so on. The characters don't have traits that delineate personalities; instead, their identities mirror the sides in the armed conflict. At each turn, they testify to their bitter pain, and sometimes argue openly, but the scenes are so charged that the characters come across as if they're grandstanding live on location for CNN rather than speaking to each other or themselves.

Nance Parker's set is swagged in diaphanous sienna drapes that evoke sun, heat and femininity. Ingenious lighting by Joan Sand creates alternately opaque and translucent surfaces on this material, which Bowman has used to good effect in several choreographed sequences. But the real hit is Truex's music, which is boosted by strong vocal performances by Josie Conte and Anna Edmondson.

Plays about seemingly irresolvable conflicts have a tough time of it. The message is burdensome and inciteful, and the playwright can only use humor in controlled doses, if at all. "Pushing Through" eschews humor altogether to achieve a tragic and slightly didactic tone. In the women-only cast we find certain stereotypes at work — especially the stereotypes that women like to promote about themselves — like the one that casts them as the sufferers and observers of history, not its participants. The elements of violence are downplayed — there are no guns, and the often-televized rock-throwing is seen from behind a genteel scrim. Yet for all that, "Pushing Through" is a deeply affecting piece of theater; when the houselights come up, there is only darkness. CBW



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**ELLIOTT**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

• **In Print: Contemporary Artists at the Vinalhaven Press** 61 prints from 1988 to the present. Featuring works by José Bedia, Grisha Bruskin, Mel Chin, Robert Cumming, Charles Hewitt, Robert Indiana, Robert Morris, Komar & Melamid, Alain Pailment, Alison Saar and Peter Saul. Shows through June 4.

**Portland Public Library 5** Monument Sq, Portland. Handmade books and works on paper by Crystal Cawley show through March 31 in the Lewis Gallery. The collected works of Diane Snow show April 1-30 in the Lewis Gallery. Hours: Mon, Wed & Fri 9 am-6 pm, Tues & Thurs noon-9 pm, Sat noon-5 pm. 871-1758.

**Renaissance Antiques 221** Commercial St, Portland. Ongoing show of works by John Dehlinger, Wilder Oaks, Terry Wolf and other Maine artists. Hours: 10 am-7 pm daily. 879-0789.

**Salt Gallery** Salt Center for Documentary Field Studies, 17 Pine St, Portland. Student work from the 1996 fall term shows through April 26. Hours: Wed & Fri 2-6 pm, Sat 10 am-1 pm. 761-0660.

**The Spring Point Museum** at Southern Maine Technical College, Fort Rd, So. Portland. "Portland Times." Ongoing. Hours: Wed-Sun 10 am-4 pm. Admission: \$2 (kids free). 799-6337.

**Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers 415** Cumberland Ave, Portland. "Social Abstractions," artwork by Jeanne Twomey, shows March 21 through May 10. Hours: Mon-Sat 9 am-5 pm. 774-3791.

**USM Osher Map Library 314** Forest Ave, Portland. Through April 27. Hours: Wed 14:30 pm and 6-8 pm, Thurs & Sat from 9 am-12:30 pm. 780-4850.

**Will's Restaurant 78** Island Ave, Peak's Island. Paintings by Lenny Hutch. Ongoing. 766-3322.

**other**  
 "Activating Your Creativity" Share your creative process and products (of whatever form) in a safe and supportive environment. If you wish to share, plan on 5-10 minutes. Meets the first Wed of the month, at Agape, 657 Congress St, Portland, from 7:30 pm. Suggested donation: \$5. 780-1500.

**Adult Pottery Classes** Beginning April 12, classes meet for 6 weeks on Saturday mornings from 9 am-noon, at 82 Pine St #3, Portland. Cost: \$90. 780-9836.

**African Art Exhibit & Sale** March 29. Traditional and contemporary pieces, spirit masks, statues, bronze figurines, drums, clay vessels and other artifacts and collectibles from West and Central Africa. At the Holiday Inn by the Bay, 88 Spring St, Portland, from 10 am-7 pm. Free admission. 765-2410.

**ARCHITALK Lecture Series** Thursdays March 27-April 17. The Portland Museum of Art and Portland's ARCHITALK Committee present a series of lectures. March 27: Diane Lewis of New York's Cooper Union speaks on "The Roof, the Wall, the Plinth." At the PMA, 7 Congress Sq, Portland, at 7 pm. Suggested donation: \$2. 775-6148.

**Art Soirée** Mainly Frames & Gallery holds gatherings of social and intellectual exchange for artistic and literary people every Friday at 534 Congress St, Portland, from 5-8 pm. 828-0031.

**Artists Apply** Portland Public Library, 5 Monument Square, Portland, invites artists to submit work for one-month exhibition in the Lewis gallery. 871-1758.

**Artists Wanted** For Maine Festival Artists, especially young artists, interested in being a part of the Maine Festival, held July 31 & August 1-3 at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick, contact Maine Arts at 772-9012 or 1-800-639-4212.

**"ATHENA: A Journal for Positive Women"** seeks submissions of poetry, photography, short stories and drawings on the topic of spirituality, by women with HIV/AIDS. Sponsored by the Maine Women's Project. Send submissions to: ATHENA, The AIDS Project, P.O. Box 5305, Portland ME 04101. 774-6877.

**Call For Art** For All invites Maine artists with disabilities to submit work for "A Matter of Perception" the first annual juried exhibition of artists with disabilities. The exhibition will show at the Portland Museum of Art and the Governor's Office State House Gallery. Work should be submitted to Very Special Arts Maine between March 31 and April 11. For more info, call 761-3861.

**Call For Work** Art Star, at 578 Congress St, top floor, Portland, seeks submissions of photographs for its upcoming show. Contact Eugene Cole at 774-2097.

**Creative Resource Center** presents free art programs for kids of all ages. Thursdays in March, "Paper Egg Pillows." Thursdays in April, "Kite Pictures." At 1103 Forest Ave, Portland, from 3:30-4 pm. Space limited. 797-9543.

**Healing Through Arts** A group integrating art, healing and spiritual development meets the last Sun of Danforth St, Portland, 780-1681.

**Maine High School Art Competition** MECA presents the 4th annual juried multi-media show featuring the work of high school students from all over the state. March 27-April 5 at the Baxter Gallery, 619 Congress St, Portland. An awards ceremony will be held April 5 from 2-4 pm. 775-3052.

**MECA Evening Lecture Series** Thursdays at 7 pm. March 20: Painter Ralph Middleman, a faculty member at the Maryland Institute of Art, talks about his

work. March 27: Discussion/Panel, "The Urban Landscape: Boston/New York" with painters Bob Scituate and Joel Babb. April 2: Lecture, "Theatre Art in the U.S.A." with set designer Ming Cho Lee. April 3: Painter George Lloyd on his work "From drawing to painting, to interrelationships." At the Baxter Building, 619 Congress St, Free. 775-3052.

**MECA Merit Scholarship Competition** MECA senior MECA students display work to be juried March 23-30. 775-3052.

**MECA Open House Tours** Come visit Maine College of Art's studio space the first Tues of every month at noon. At MECA, 522 Congress Street. RSVP 775-5098.

**Open Slide Night** The Union of Maine Visual Artists invites artists, craftspeople and anyone interested to attend an open slide night the second Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at Jay York Affordable cussion/feedback. 773-3434.

**Photo Contest** Maine Medical Center presents its Children's Miracle Center Kids Photo Contest. Photos accepted through April 4. Displayed at the Maine Mall April 2-5. To enter, call 871-2101.

**Portland Camera Club** holds weekly meeting, Mon at 7:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 413 Broadway, S. Portland. Monthly events include B&W, color print and color slide competition. 854-3763.

**Portland Chamber of Commerce** is looking for Maine artists to share their work. 772-2811, ext. 223.

**Pottery Classes** for kids and adults offered at Sawyer Street Studios, S. Portland. Costs and times vary. 767-4394.

**Randy Bean Fund** Created in honor of long-time member of Maine Arts Sponsors Association (MASA) Randy Bean to assist an artist in attending the annual MASA conference. Contributions may be sent to: The MASA Randy Bean Fund, P. O. Box 2352, Augusta, ME 04338. 626-3277.

**Summer Art and Design Programs** The Maine College of Art sponsors two summer programs aimed at designers and environmental artists. The Maine Summer Institute in Graphic Design has four residential workshops July 14-Aug 4. Application deadline is May 2. Limited scholarships available. For more info, call MECA at 795-3052.

**USM Art Association** USM art alumni, students and friends of the university can call to receive a survey and info on the new association. 761-4044 or 883-6012.

**Visual Artists and Computer Users** interested in joining a group to "inter-and-intra" the New Millennium can link up at the non-profit Maine artists space, Danforth Gallery, 34 Danforth St, Portland. For more info, call Roland Salazar Rose at 775-6245.

## volunteer new

**Earth Day Coalition** Join other concerned Mainers in forming a coalition to help the environment. Write to: Emily Whitman Leighton, MED 2000, P.O. Box 1845, Portland, Maine 04104. Or call, 773-8297.

**Help Homeless Veterans** Join in Stand Down 97, a one-day outreach effort to assist homeless veterans and their families. Services offered include food, clothing, footwear, ID's, showers, haircuts, eye and hearing exams and medical services. May 17 at Maine Army National Guard Armory, 772 Stevens Ave, Portland, from 8 am-5 pm. To learn how you can help, call 1-800-827-1000.

**Maine Citizens to Reduce Youth Smoking** predicts the rate of smoking among Maine's teens will decrease 30% if Maine's excise tax on cigarettes is raised by a dollar. To volunteer to help promote this increase, please call today: 1-800-631-2939 or send a fax to MECPYS at 622-3616.

**Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast** Maine in Brunswick offers services for adult survivors of sexual assault and their significant others. Volunteers are needed to staff their 24-hour hotline, offer follow-up and referral services and advocacy. Must be caring, dependable and over 18. No prior experience necessary. Training is a 30-hour program 725-2181.

**Take Our Daughters to Work Day** April 24. The organizers of the 5th annual "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" seek individuals, businesses, parents and schools to organize in their local areas. The day provides girls, ages 9-15 years, with the opportunity to spend a day in the work-place of their choice. To get involved, call 622-0851.

## outdoors

**Adult Hockey** Portland Ice Arena offers hockey for adults Fri from 1:30-2:30 pm. Helmets and face-masks required. At 225 Park Ave, Portland. Cost: \$4. 774-8553.

**Appalachian Mountain Club** Features a variety of

trips, workshops and facilities. 799-5312.

**Cal Watch** USM's Wolfe's Neck Farm, 10 Burnett Rd, Freeport, opens its doors to the public for the calving season. Visitors are welcome daily from 9 am-4 pm. Children can also visit sheep, rabbits, goats, pigs, chickens and turkeys. 865-4469.

**Camp KETCHA** 336 Black Point Rd, Scarborough, offers an April Vacation camp April 21-25. Space is limited. Run by the Camp Fire Boys and Girls. For a registration form, call 883-8977.

**Casco Bay Bike Club** offers many local weekend, evening and weekday rides. For everyone from beginners to the seasoned rider. Meets the third Tues of each month at the Dana Center at Maine Med. Trip hotline: 828-0918.

**Free Camp for the Blind** Blind residents of Maine are encouraged to attend the National Camps for Blind Children program at Camp Lawrover, Weld, Contact Camps for Blind Children, 743-0818.

**H2Olifters** Offering indoor pool instruction for paddlers of all skill levels and ages. Paddling series, open pool/rolling clinics. Kayak polo. Cost varies. 833-5257.

**Ice Skating** Portland Ice Arena offers public skating Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri from 11:45 am-1:15 pm and Sun from 3:40-5 pm. At 225 Park Ave, Portland. Cost: \$4 (\$2 youth/seniors). Rental skates: \$1. 774-8553.

**Maine Accessible Adventures** is an adventure group for people with and without disabilities. Activities include kayaking, canoeing, archery, rock climbing, downhill skiing and horseback riding. Most events require advance registration. Membership: \$15/year (\$35/year family). 871-2993.

**Maine Audubon Society Gilead Farm Environmental Center** 118 U.S. Route 1, Falmouth. Preschool Discovery Time: "Buzzing Bees," stories and activities for preschool-aged kids, followed by a snack, Weds 10:11-11:30 am. Cost: \$5 (\$4 members). \$3 each additional child (\$2 members). Nature Book Discussion Group Second Mon of the month from 7:30-9 pm. Nature Walks at Gilead Farm April 5 & 20 at 10 am. 781-2330.

**Maine Front-runners** is a gay and lesbian running club that sponsors a weekly run in Portland, Sat at 9 am, at the beginning of the Back Cove Walkway. For more info, call 761-2059.

**Maine Outdoor Adventure Club** meetings are the first Wed of every month at 7 pm at the Unitarian Church, 524 Allen Ave, Portland. MOAC offers hiking, canoeing, backpacking, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, camping and other trips for people of all skill levels. Upcoming: For updated trip info, call hotline at 828-0918.

**Moxie Outdoor Adventures** offers rafting trips in Maine. Discounts to Maine residents. Call for a free brochure, 1-800-866-6943.

**Norumbega Outfitters** 58 Fore St, Bldg 11, Portland, offers a variety of paddling and snow shoeing opportunities for people of all skill levels. 773-0910.

**Outdoor Recreation Scholarship** The Maine Campground Owners Association offers a \$500 scholarship to Maine residents who have already completed one year of study in an outdoor recreation program. For an application, write to: MECA, 655 Main St, Lewiston, ME 04240, or call 782-5874.

**The Portland Rugby Club** seeks new and experienced players and coaches. For more info on practice and games, call Mike DeSalle at 828-4296, Peter DeBlaco at 829-4607 or Randy Lott at 846-4197.

**Primitive Wilderness Skills Group** meets on a regular basis to practice fire-by-friction, edible & useful wild plants, animal tracking, nature study, stone tool making, shelter building and other "primitive" outdoor skills. For more info, call Josh Cohen at 879-0905.

**So. Me. Sea Kayaking Network** People of all skill levels are invited to join the network for some paddling. 767-6139.

**Ultimate Frisbee** Co-ed Ultimate Frisbee is played 3 days a week in Portland all summer — no experience necessary. 874-2190.

**Wolfe's Neck State Park** 106 Wolfe Neck Rd, Freeport, holds nature programs Sat and Sun from 2-3 p.m. 865-4465.

## etc events

**Bean Supper** March 29. At Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church, 810 Main St, Westbrook, from 5-6 pm. Cost: \$5 (\$1.50 kids). 854-9157.

**Beginner/Intermediate Writers Group** forming in Portland/So. Portland area. For more info, call 767-7194.

**Book Sale** April 5 & 6. At Falmouth Memorial Library, 5 Lunt Rd, Portland, April 5 from 10 am-4 pm, April 6 from 1-4 pm. 781-2351.

**Call for Nominations** The Smaller Business Association of New England seeks nominations for the 11th annual New Englander Awards. To be considered, a company must show how its innovative qualities and performance have led to its

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success. Deadline for nominations: March 28. For info and nomination applications, call SBANE at 617-890-9070, X236.

**Children's Auction** April 2. The Plummer-Motz school holds an auction in conjunction with its annual art show with Tom Allen as auctioneer. Items include children's prints, wooden picnic tables, bird houses, cooking classes for kids, and more. At 192 Middle Rd, Falmouth, from 7-8 pm. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland. For info on donating an item or about the auction, call Dorothy Blanchette at 781-2993 or 781-3988.

**Flea Market** March 30. The largest market in Maine. Antiques, art, collectibles and colorful people. At the Portland Expo, from 9 am-4 pm. 874-8200.

**The Great Pizza Bakeoff** April 6. Ten area restaurants serve pizza as a benefit for Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine. At the Atrium Inn & Convention Center, Cook's Corner, Brunswick, from 11 am-2 pm. Tax: \$5 (\$4 advance). 725-2181.

**1997 Maine Chapbook Award** The Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance presents a contest in the category of "creative nonfiction with a Maine connection." MWPA will publish 500 copies of the winning chapbook and award the winner \$300 and 10% of chapbook sales. Manuscripts must be received by April 4. Mail or hand deliver to: MWPA Chapbook Competition, 12 Pleasant St, Brunswick, ME 04011. Include a \$10 processing fee. For a copy of contest guidelines, call 729-6333.

**Maine Golf Privilege Card** The American Lung Association of Maine is now selling cards featuring 100 rounds of golf at 58 courses in Maine, 2 in N.H. and 29 in Nova Scotia. Cost: \$70. Interested golfers should call the ALA at 1-800-458-6472.

**Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance Sale and Demonstration** April 5. At Maine History Gallery, 489 Congress St, Portland, from 10 am-4 pm. Cost: \$2 (\$1 kids). 879-0427.

**Performers Wanted** Maine Arts invites musicians and performers of all ages to participate in Congress Square Events 1997. Send demo tapes, video tapes, letters or photos to: CS Events, Maine Arts, 582 Congress St, Portland, ME 04101. 772-9012.

**Personal Safety Workshop** April 13. Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine sponsors a workshop with Black belt instructor Laurette Gregoire. At the YWCA, 87 Spring St, Portland, from 9 am-1 pm. Cost: \$35 (\$25 preregistration). 799-9020.

**PROP seeks board members** Low-income Cumberland County residents and their advocates are invited to seek nomination to the Board of Trustees of People's Regional Opportunity Program. Nominations will be accepted until March 28. If interested, call Cheryl at 874-1140, ext. 343.

**Public Breakfast** April 5. All you can eat. At Tuttle Road United Methodist Church, 52 Tuttle Rd, Cumberland, from 7:30-9 am. Tax: \$3.50 (\$1.75 kids). 829-3766.

**Roast Beef Supper** April 5. At St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 10 Alton St, Portland. Seatings at 5, 6, and 7 pm. Cost: \$6.50. 775-1179.

**Russian Exchange** Portlanders interested in becoming part of the ninth annual visit to Portland's sister city in June, should contact Edna Ellis at 767-2260.

**Sacred Heart School Reunion** April 19. The Sacred Heart School of Portland holds a reunion of all students in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Church. Volunteers needed to help with planning. Contact Cathy Pickering Nally at 797-7362 or Cindy Colley Rendall at 797-5733.

**"Shabbat Across America"** April 4. Congregation Bet Ha'am joins 400 congregations across the country by holding a Sabbath service and festive meal open to the public. At 81 Westbrook St, So. Portland. Dinner at 6:15 pm, service at 7:30 pm. Cost: \$5 (\$3 kids/\$10 family max). Reservations required. 879-0028.

**Southworth Planetarium** March 27: "Comet: From Ice to Fire" astronomy show at 7 pm. "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" Beatles laser show at 8:30 pm. March 28: "Sky Friends" Preschoolers' astro show at 3 pm. "Comet: From Ice to Fire" astronomy show at 7 pm. "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" Beatles laser show at 8:30 pm. March 29: "Laser Enya" ethereal Celtic astronomy show at 3 pm. At 96 Falmouth St, Portland. Cost: \$4 (\$3 kids). Sat & Sun matinee: \$3. 780-4249.

**Spring Tea Party Workshop** March 27. Learn how to choose and prepare tea, make easy sandwiches, tartlets, scones and cookies and dress your tea table. At Sweet Annie's Tea Shop, 642 Congress St, Portland, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Cost: \$8.95. 773-3353.

**The Tate House Museum** in Portland's Stroudwater district, offers a series of special workshops and demonstrations. April 4: Sarah Steinman, president of Casco Bay Herb Company, demonstrates the traditional process of making herbal soaps. At 1270 Westbrook St, Portland, 774-9781.

**Workshop on Fundraising** April 10. Gary Friedmann, a veteran Maine fundraiser, gives a workshop on fundraising for nonprofit organizations. At Hastings Lounge, USM campus, Gorham, from 9 am-3:30 pm. 288-5323.

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# moVies

## Review

"Crash," directed by David Cronenberg. Rated NC-17. At Hoyts Clark's Pond, 333 Clark's Rd., So. Portland, 879-1511.

If you were hoping to be aroused by "Crash," you'd best look elsewhere. After spending months embroiled in controversy — including an NC-17 rating and a condemnation of the film (which he later backed off of) by noted critic Ted Turner — David Cronenberg's adaptation of J.G. Ballard's culty 1973 novel turns out to be just plain dull. If the film doesn't bore you to tears with its incoherent plot or character development, it will likely turn your stomach with its graphic shots of car crash wounds, both drizzled with blood and in various states of repair.

"Crash" follows James and Catherine Ballard (James Spader and Deborah Kara Unger), a sedate urban couple with a problematic sex life. After James is badly injured in a car crash, he develops a fetish for smashed autos and scarred flesh. He's not the only one with a taste for sex and stitches, though. Dr. Helen Remington (Holly Hunter), the other survivor from his crash, introduces him to a twisted group of crash survivors, led by Vaughn (Elias Koteas), a psychotic genius with a spider-web of crash scars covering his body. Vaughn and his posse (including Roseanna Arquette) re-enact famous car wrecks — James Dean, Jayne Mansfield — for the rush, sometimes with deadly results. It's all part of Vaughn's "project," which he explains as documenting how modern technology alters the body. Later, he

says it's really about the connections — both sexual and intellectual — they're all making through car crashes.

Whatever they may be, these fleeting moments are the only clues we're given to help us make sense of the characters' behavior. But Cronenberg never fleshes out the characters' motivations, and Vaughn, supposedly a magnetic personality, comes off as little more than a crazy, sniveling sex fiend. Apparently, though, this is enough to attract the Ballards, who reconnect with each other by entering Vaughn's world of rough sex and ambulance-chasing.

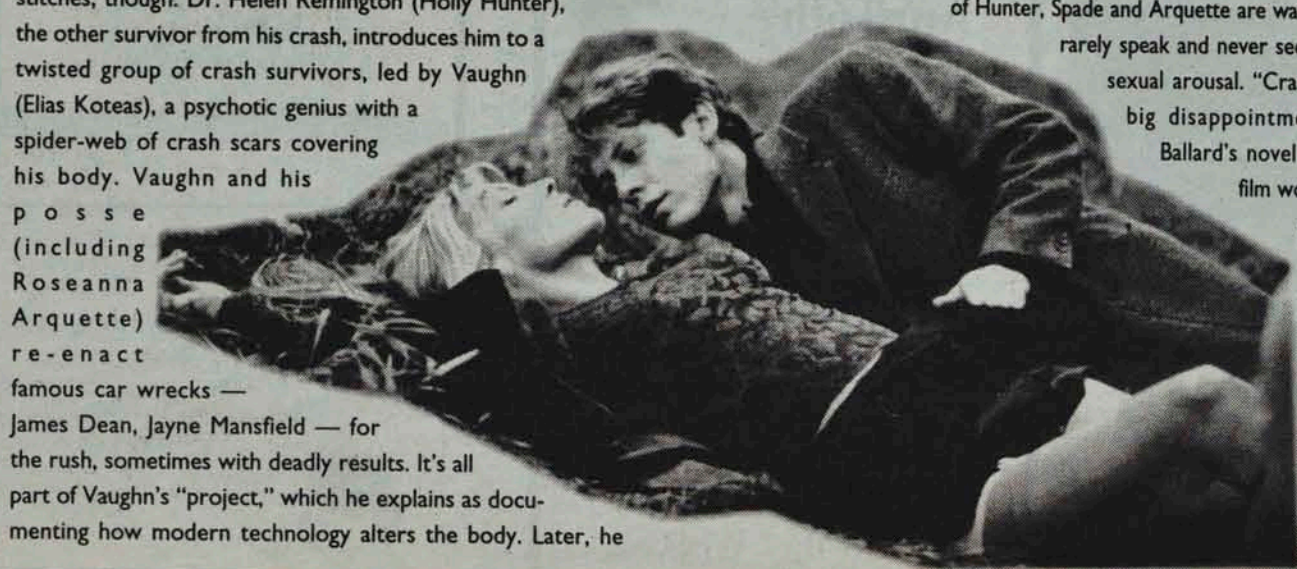
What follows is a string of fairly predictable sex sequences with little connective tissue; devoid of a deeper message, "Crash" plays out like glorified porn. Each scene seems like little more than a set-up for the characters to interlock. And their sex is so uninspired that it's hardly arousing. The considerable talents

of Hunter, Spade and Arquette are wasted on characters that rarely speak and never seem to feel anything but sexual arousal. "Crash," consequently, is a big disappointment to both fans of Ballard's novel and those hoping the

film would deliver a peek into the modern connections between sex and violence. My advice: keep looking.

— ZOE MILLER

Where does it hurt? Deborah Kara Unger and James Spader in "Crash"



## now playing

**ABSOLUTE POWER** The latest effort from actor and cool-tempered director Clint Eastwood is a thriller about the cover-up following a murder close to the president. Starring Ed Wood, Judy Davis, Scott Glenn, Melina Hardin, and Gene Hackman as commander in chief. **B.A.P.S.** Halle Berry and Natalie Dessell head for the Hollywood Hills hoping to find stardom. Instead, they hook up with a moneyed geezer who bankrolls their shopping trips.

**BOOTY CALL** Two hot mamas (Vivica A. Fox and Tamala Jones) meet up with a pair of shameless bachelors (Jamie Foxx and Tommy Davidson) and sparks fly. Before anyone can get down and dirty, though, there's one little errand to run — for condoms.

**CATS DON'T DANCE** An animated kids' musical about two cats who hit 1930s Hollywood looking for fame. **LA CEREMONIE** Claude Chabrol's latest suspense thriller explores class tensions through the sinister friendship between a wealthy family's maid and the local postmistress, who nurtures a seething resentment of the rich. Starring Jacqueline Bisset and Isabelle Huppert.

**CRASH** It's unclear whether David Cronenberg's controversial adaptation of J.G. Ballard's novel earned its NC-17 rating for sex or for violence, but it's beside the point: the movie is an affectless yawner about damaged souls who get off on auto accidents, and plays like little more than glorified porn. Reviewed this issue.

**DANTE'S PEAK** Pierce Brosnan is dull and Linda Hamilton is wasted in this dud of a disaster flick, about a reawakened volcano in the Pacific Northwest. The special effects, which looked so cool in previews, fizzle. Reviewed 2/13/97.

**THE DEVIL'S OWN** A thriller about two basically decent men (Brad Pitt and Harrison Ford) who become divided by their loyalties. Pitt plays a

charming IRA gunman butting heads with Ford's Irish-American cop. **DONNIE BRASCO** Al Pacino mentors young Donnie Brasco (Johnny Depp), unaware that he's taking an FBI agent behind the mob's curtain. Brasco's loyalty to the badge is weakened by six years as Pacino's right-hand man. Based on a true story.

**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** The second and darkest chapter in George Lucas' revamped masterpiece. You'll meet Yoda, Jaba the Hutt and find out some very interesting things about Luke's family tree. **THE ENGLISH PATIENT** Based on Michael Ondaatje's acclaimed novel, the multiple-Oscar-winning film traces two love stories, one in late-'30s Cairo between a court (Ralph Fiennes) and a British aristocrat's wife (Kristin Scott Thomas), the other in mid-'40s Italy between a Canadian nurse (Juliette Binoche) and an Indian minesweeper (Naveen Andrews).

**EVITA** Madonna sings her lungs out as Argentina's most beloved icon, Eva Peron. Music by Andrew Lloyd Weber. Also starring Antonio Banderas. **JERRY MAGUIRE** Writer-director Cameron Crowe offers us the story of a 30-something sports agent (Tom Cruise) who gets his butt fired for taking the moral highground, but who manages to find his way to the top nonetheless.

**JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE** Tim Allen plays an international trader who returns to the Amazon to get his long lost wife to sign the divorce papers. He finds she has been bargained for, namely a 13-year-old son (Sam Huntington) he's never met. "Jungle 2 Jungle" follows Allen and his son's culture-clashing adventures in New York City. **LIAR, LIAR** The Jim Carrey we all know and love is back. In this silly family comedy, Carrey plays a lawyer who can't tell the truth to save his life. That is, until his son makes a birthday wish for him to stop lying. Let the facial contortions begin.

**MARVIN'S ROOM** When Diane Keaton finds out she has leukemia, she buries

the axe and calls up her estranged sister (Meryl Streep) to come take care of her. Leonardo DiCaprio plays Streep's bad-behaving son who eases the sisters' feuding. Also starring Robert De Niro as the nutty doctor.

**101 DALMATIANS** Glenn Close no doubt draws on her previous evil-wench roles to bring to life the queen of mean, Cruella DeVil. In this live-action remake of the classic children's tale.

**THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT** Milos Forman's raucous and raunchy movie follows the transformation of Larry Flynt (Woody Harrelson) from a two-bit strip-club owner into a publisher, millionaire and First Amendment firebrand. Harrelson is so-as Flynt, but Courtney Love is a natural as his stripper/drug addict/AIDS victim wife. Reviewed 1/16/97.

**PRIVATE PARTS** This film version of Howard Stern's autobiography is — surprise — a winning, campy and thoroughly enjoyable look at the king of shock radio. Stern plays himself, from young geek to long-haired horn-dog. Suspend your loathing for the man and go along for the ride. Reviewed 3/13/97.

**RANSOM** Mel Gibson plays Tom Mullen, a super-successful Manhattan businessman. When his son is abducted by criminals who demand big bucks for his return, Tommy has no intention of letting them get away with it. Also starring Rene Russo, Gary Sinise and Delroy Lindo.

**RETURN OF THE JEDI** The final chapter in the "Star Wars" trilogy, which brings us to the Ewok's kingdom and solves a few more of Luke's familial mysteries. **SCREAM** Wes Craven pokes fun at his own genre in a postmodern thriller about a serial killer set in suburban California. Drew Barrymore heads up a cast of babes that includes Neve Campbell and Courtney Cox.

**SELENA** Writer/director Gregory Nava ("Mi Familia") serves up a biopic of the slain Tejano pop star. Starring Jennifer Lopez.

**SHINE** The true story of Australian concert pianist David Helfgott

(Geoffrey Rush), who made a comeback 20 years after suffering a massive nervous breakdown. Director Scott Hicks set out to explore "a life that was on the edges of expression," and the resulting portrait of shattered artistry and triumph is both sentimental and vivid.

**THE SIXTH MAN** When star hoops player Antoine (Kadeem Hardison) dies on the eve of the NCAA championships, his team, including his younger brother (played by Marlon Wayans), are in need of a prayer. Fortunately, Antoine's ghost is available to keep their shots on track.

**SLING BLADE** The subtly told story of a man who returns home from an asylum 25 years after murdering his mother. Starring Billy Bob Thornton ("One False Move"), who also wrote and directed the film.

**STAR WARS** Revamped and remastered, George Lucas' masterpiece returns to theaters to swallow up some more cash — or, uh, rather, to inspire a new generation of Jedi masters. The force, apparently, is still with us.

**THREE LIVES AND ONLY ONE DEATH** In Raúl Ruiz's sexy, absurdist comedy, Marcello Mastroianni plays four men in one body. Through the course of his adventures as a salesman, professor, butler and industrialist, we learn that sometimes what we can actually become what we imagine ourselves to be.

**TURBO: A POWER RANGERS ADVENTURE** Packed with cheesy special effects and merchandising opportunities, this installment promises a few newcomers joining in the fight against evil.

**WAITING FOR GUFFMAN** The only thing worse than a bad community theater production is the people who don't realize how wretched it is. Such a scenario is exactly what fuels Christopher Guest's "Waiting for Guffman," which follows the exploits of a failed director who unleashes his questionable talents on his small town's 150th anniversary celebration.

# times

SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE FRIDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, MARCH 21-27, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

OWING TO SCHEDULING CHANGES AFTER CBW GOES TO PRESS, MOVIEGOERS ARE ADVISED TO CONFIRM TIMES WITH THEATERS.

NICKELODEON, TEMPLE AND MIDDLE STREETS, PORTLAND, 772-9751.

**EVITA** (PG) 12:30, 3:30 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:30, 9:30  
**ABSOLUTE POWER** (R) 12:40, 3:40 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:40, 9:40  
**BOOTY CALL** (R) 9:10

**101 DALMATIANS** (PG) 1:10, 4:10 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 7  
**DANTE'S PEAK** (PG-13) 1:20, 4:20 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 7:20, 10  
**SHINE** (PG-13) 1, 4 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 7:10, 9:50  
**THE PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT** (R) 9:20

**RANSOM** (R) 12:50, 3:50 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:50

GENERAL CINEMAS, MAINE MALL, MAINE MALL ROAD, SO. PORTLAND, 774-1022.

**THE DEVIL'S OWN** (R) 1:35, 4:10, 7, 9:30  
**CATS DON'T DANCE** (G) 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:20, 9:20

**LIAR, LIAR** (PG-13) 1, 1:10, 3:05, 3:20, 5:10, 5:25, 7:15, 7:40, 9:25, 9:45  
**SELENA** (PG) 1:20, 4:05, 7, 9:40

**PRIVATE PARTS** (R) 1:40, 4:15, 7:20, 9:55  
**JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE** (PG) 1:30, 3:50, 7:15, 9:35

HOYTS CLARK'S POND, 333 CLARK'S RD., SO. PORTLAND, 879-1511.  
**TURBO: A POWER RANGERS ADVENTURE** (PG) 1:40, 4:40, 7:15, 9:15  
**B.A.P.S.** (PG-13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:20, 10

**THE SIXTH MAN** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50  
**CRASH** (NC-17) 9:20  
**SLING BLADE** (R) 12:50, 3:50, 6:40, 9:35

**RETURN OF THE JEDI** (PG) 1, 4, 6:50, 9:40  
**DONNIE BRASCO** (R) 1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55  
**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** (PG) 1:20, 4:10, 7, 9:45  
**JERRY MAGUIRE** (R) 12:45, 3:40, 6:30

THE MOVIES, 10 EXCHANGE ST., PORTLAND, 772-9600.

**WAITING FOR GUFFMAN** (R) MAR 27 APR 1 • THURS-FRI 5:15, 7, 9 • SAT-SUN 3:15, 7:15 • MON-TUES 7:15  
**THREE LIVES AND ONLY ONE DEATH** (NR) MAR 29 APR 1 • SAT-SUN 1, 5, 9 • MON-TUES 5, 9  
**LA CEREMONIE** (NR) APR 28 • WED-TUES 5, 7:15, 9:15 • SAT-SUN 12:45, 2:45

FLAGSHIP CINEMAS, 206 U.S. ROUTE 1, FALMOUTH, 781-5616.  
**THE DEVIL'S OWN** (R) 1:20, 4:05, 7:05, 9:30  
**TURBO: A POWER RANGERS ADVENTURE** (PG) 12:35, 2:45, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25  
**LIAR, LIAR** (PG-13) 12:30, 2:40, 4:40, 7:20, 9:20  
**SLING BLADE** (R) 12:55, 3:45, 6:55  
**SELENA** (PG) 9:35

**RETURN OF THE JEDI** (PG) 1:05, 4, 6:50, 9:40  
**PRIVATE PARTS** (R) 1:10, 3:30, 6:40, 9:10  
**JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE** (PG) 12:45, 3:50, 7, 9:15  
**THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK** (PG) 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 9:50  
**DONNIE BRASCO** (R) 12:40, 3:35, 7, 9:40  
**THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (R) 12:50, 4:15, 7:30

KEYSTONE THEATRE CAFE, 504 CONGRESS ST., PORTLAND, 871-5500.  
**THE ENGLISH PATIENT** (R) 12 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6  
**SCREAM** (R) 3:15 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 9:30  
**SHINE** (PG-13) 3:30 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 9  
**MARVIN'S ROOM** (PG-13) 1 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 7  
**STAR WARS** (PG) 12:30, 3 (SAT & SUN ONLY), 6:30, 9:30

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ROOMMATE NEEDED- SHARE 2BDR. APT. Gosham, w/professional G.M. July Start date. Lets start the interview process now. \$300/mo. 892-5356

ROOMMATE NEEDED- GAY-FRIENDLY WOMAN to join quiet, friendly Pine Point. Private room, yard. Drug-free. \$300 + 1/2 heat. Starting date negotiable. Call 774-5549.

ROOMMATE WANTED- M/F NONSMOKER. \$262 + 1/2 utilities, driveway parking, great location- 5 minutes from downtown. Please call 874-6425.

SOUTH PORTLAND-PROFESSIONAL N/S responsible, clean, quiet roommate to share 2BDR home w/female, 33 + 2 cats. Deck, W.D., fireplace, yard, parking, storage. \$550/mo. 741-2942.

THREE THIRTYTH HOUSEMATES looking for 4th to share quiet, friendly Pine Point apartment. Only steps from the beach and the marsh. Good swimmers and volleyball players preferred. \$300/mo. + utilities. Call Harlow 863-8954.

WINDHAM- M/F, 15/min. to Portland. Off Rt. 302. Quiet country setting. Large sun-drenched pool. Off street parking. \$100/wk. all utilities included. W.D., smoking O.K. Call 892-8227, 9am-5pm.

## APTS/RENT

EFFICIENCY, PAYSON PARK AREA. Private, very bright, nice, small, off-street parking. H/W included. \$88/wk. lease, security deposit. N/S, no pets. 871-9055.

MELLEN ST.: SMALL, BEAUTIFULLY restored 1BDR. Hardwood floors, gas stove, no smoking. Responsible pet owners welcome. \$400/mo. includes H/W. 773-2966.

MUNJOY HILL- LIGHT, AIRY, 3BDR, water-view. \$600/mo., heat/gas included. 870-7899.

PEAKS ISLAND: Modern spacious 2BDR. 2 bath, W.D., great views of Casco Bay, inground pool, easy walk to beach. \$650/mo. 766-2295.

STATE STREET- 1BDR, large kitchen, living room storage, parking. \$315/mo. plus utilities security and lease 780-5595.

STATE STREET- STUDIO, ONE/TWO BDR. Some with water view or exterior balcony. Victorian building, elevator, oak floors. \$415-\$575. 773-1614.

VERY LARGE, SUNNY, QUIET 1BDR. High ceilings, hardwood floors, lots of character, another room off the bedroom for office/studio. Another 1BDR available. H/W included. One year lease on both. Intown, near Maine Med. \$575/\$225. 828-8014.

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## RENTAL

AN EXCEPTIONALLY NICE, secluded, lake-front log cabin in Princeton, Washington County. Beyond the usual. Loons, excellent fishing, swimming, privacy. 2BDRS, amenities. \$435/week. (207) 434-6228. (Zone IV)

COZY COTTAGES, HOUSEKEEPING COTTAGES, breathtaking sunsets, crystal-clear lake, safe sandy beach and unspoiled mountain beauty. Brochure Bungalow Village, P.O. Box 131-BY, Bristol, NH 03222.

THINK SUMMER- LARGE 3BDR HOME ON Cliff Island. Close to ferry. Call 766-2669 for rates/availability.

## OFFICES/RENT

EXCHANGE ST. OFFICE in 3 office suite. \$200/mo. + electricity, + cleaning. Call Kathryn 775-2802.

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## STUDIOS/RENT

ART STUDIOS AVAILABLE- In the heart of downtown, near the Maine College of Art, reasonable rates, call Peter- DIRIGO MGMT. 871-1080.

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## classifieds

## 775-1234

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## WANTED

I HAVE THE FURNITURE INCLUDING W.D. You supply the pad. Will pay negotiable rent. Must be N/S, professional, positive, and diversified. Please call before 9pm. Paul. (207) 854-1072.

## REAL ESTATE

1,000'S OF FORECLOSED GOVERNMENT HOMES. V.A., H.U.D., F.H.A. etc. Government financing available. List for your area. Call 1-800-974-2396 ext. 2095.

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CAMELOT HOME CENTER five bedroom, 80' double wide, from \$49,995 to \$55,995. Invest 5% (in equity or cash) and get 30 years to pay at rates as low as 7.5%.

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FROM SURVIVING TO THRIVING. Weekly therapy groups beginning April 29/30. BEYOND THERAPY, monthly group. Beyond the Prison of Dissatisfaction and Fear- May 23, 24, 25. To Go Walkabout With God- June 6, 7, 8. For brochures/information call: 798-1024.

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GROF HOTOLOGIC BREATHWORK. Holographic means "Moving Toward Wholeness." In this highly experiential workshop, accelerated breathing, evocative music, and focused body work allow participants to transcend normal limitations and access inner realms of discovery and healing. Led by certified Holographic Breathwork facilitator David Pearson, April 25, 26. Cost \$100. Scholarships available. Call Peter Comas 892-6394.

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TOWARDS A MORE POSITIVE GAY IDENTITY Evening and daytime therapy groups with Fred Wolf, M.D., and Chris Behan, LCSW. \$45/00. Insurance reimbursable. Sliding scale fee may be available. Family Institute of Maine. Call for more information. 773-6658.

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1981 MERCEDES 300D. 152K. SUNROOF. AC, power windows, excellent interior, good body. \$3000/BO. Call 767-3488.

1993 Eagle Talon. DL, AC, PS, Cruise, Tilt, Green. 67,000 miles. Pirelli tires. \$6,900/BO. 767-1383.

1993 MERCURY SABLE. MIDNIGHT BLUE, excellent condition, 88K, loaded. Must sell. \$7,200/BO. (207) 773-0523.

1994 NISSAN ALTIMA GXE. 5-SPEED, green, excellent condition, well maintained. AC. Fully loaded, 4DR. \$10,500. (207) 797-6431.

1995 GRAND CARAVAN VOYAGER. PW/PL, 7 passengers, 49K, privacy glass, excellent condition. \$13,500 firm (Book \$15,900). (207) 846-5128.

1995 VW Jetta, 24,000mi, dealer maintained, alarm system, must sell. \$12,500/BO. Call 846-8996.

2 ATVS. SELLING 1 SUZUKI 4x4. 600mi., \$2,795. Yamaha 2X4 300mi., plow. \$1,795/BO. (207) 324-1983.

ACURA INTEGRA GS, 1993. 5-speed, 44K, leather black, loaded, garaged, immaculate. Asking \$14,200. 773-4971 Portland.

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BUICK SKYLARD. 1995. Excellent condition, 4dr., AT, AC, PW, PDL, AM/FM stereo cassette, bright red. \$9,500. 285-7145.

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Sunday, 10am to noon  
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Mandala with Emily Easton

Sunday, 1pm to 3pm  
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Sunday, 1pm to 3pm  
Creativity and Soul  
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Sunday, 3pm to 5pm  
Tapping into Your Intuition for  
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U of M STUDENT: Very attractive 22 yr old blond college senior. Tall 5'11 with a 34-22-34 body with curves in all the right places. Searching for a man 25-35 race not important for dating, dining and pleasure. I'm always ready for a good time. Box # 0528

SHARON: I'm 5'6 with blond hair and green eyes. My breasts are a firm 36c and I don't wear a bra. I seek a man or a woman who is into mutual pleasure. I like first meetings to start at my place for safety reasons. Call Box # 0880

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NINA: I am a very hot 22 yr old redhead who wants to explore my sexuality. I love wearing short skirts with long sexy pumped heels and a garter belt or thigh high stockings. I really love a man taking control of me and using me for all his needs. Please call BOX # 3420

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MARINA: I am a 24 yr old legal secretary with light brown hair and hazel eyes. I love to have fun and I love to have sex. My first turn on is someone who is very oral. I want to meet a man who has the same sexual interest as me. BOX # 2537

GLORIA: I am a true nymph. I love sex all the time. I'll bet you can guess what I was doing when I recorded my message. I'm 5'5 135lbs with bright red hair & green eyes. My 38d breasts are real and waiting for attention, along with the rest of me. BOX # 2004

Sexy 22 yr old female, 5'6 106 lbs. Very large breast. I like men who are very oral & nasty by nature. Reach me direct and fulfill my sexual desire. Box 0454

ART TEACHER, Make me submit to your every command. I'll be your personal live servant. I'm 5'5 brown hair 34C-26-34. My breasts are firm and sensitive. My legs are long and luscious my lips are soft, wet & ready Lucy BOX # 4020

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## The Regional Transportation Advisory Committee RTAC 6

Serving communities in Cumberland county

Will hold a **Public Meeting** at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 2, 1997 at the **Cascades Inn & Restaurant** at the corner of U.S. Route One and Route 98 in Saco, Maine. Agenda items will include the following:

- Public Comment
- Discuss Annual RTAC Work plan
- Bicycle sub-committee update
- Ski Train Field Trip update
- Report from regional planners
- Process Evaluation/Public comment
- Next Meeting Agenda



# personals

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## WOMEN & MEN

"APRIL, COME SHE WILL" with the promise of Spring love. Are you seeking laughter and music; someone who'll listen to your thoughts, share your dreams, touch your soul? This attractive, auburn-haired DWCF, 53, seeks life-long romance. "Grow old along with me. The best is yet to be." #1671 (05/07)

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A WOMAN OF SUBSTANCE. Attractive DWPF, 48, 5'9", slim, auburn, hazel, feminine, fun, sophisticated, athletic, personable, honest, enjoys fitness, aerobics, hiking, biking, dancing, reading (Angelou, Proulx, Le Carre), golf, gardening, candlelight dinners, quiet times, movies (action, romantic comedy), theater, seeks healthy, attractive WPM, 45-55, similar qualities/interests/integrity. #1586 (05/01)

ALMOST SPRING. Widowed W/F, 60 looking for companion who likes to dance, play cards, bingo, 5'4", 170#, smokers O.K., drinkers no. 60 plus. #1461 (04/16)

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME? Attractive energetic, charismatic, professional lady seeking honest, sincere man 53-68 to share the many joys of life. Let's meet and talk. #1548 (04/23)

ATTRACTIVE & WARM. SWF, 46, med. build, B/B, N/S, N/D, Christian. Enjoys travel, dining out, movies, dancing. Seeking attractive, secure, N/S, SWM 44-57, Bangor area. Write: P.O. Box 8219, Bangor, ME. 04401.

ATTRACTIVE PROFESSIONAL DF, 54, seeks male counterpart for exploration and discovery. To infinity and beyond! #1541 (04/23)

BEING ALONE TOGETHER. He's a life-long mate whom I seek. 40's to 50's N/S, friend and lover. Someone to enjoy life with, to be together forever with, an eternal friend. #1670 (05/07)

BIG BAD WOLF OR STUDLY WOODSMAN wanted by eccentric romantic red ridinghood, 30ish, fond of film, fun, food, fantasy, frisky frolics. Seeking tall, burly, bearded, warped cross between Conan O'Brien and Conan the Barbarian. Won't share goodie basket with just any storybook character. An optional. #1474 (04/16)

BRUNSWICK WOMAN, 47 seeks N/S male who shares enthusiasm for life, believes in the inherent good of people, likes animals, and dares to dream #1483 (04/16)

CREATOR OF MOVABLE FEASTS. Cancer of streams, woods walker, seeking intelligent, intimate companionship to share life's journey together. I'm tall, slim, fit, fun, adventuresome. Come sit and share wine, conversation and sunsets with me. Bangor area. #1603 (05/01)

HORSEWOMAN SEEKS HORSEMAN. Can you court a lady, paddle a canoe, bait a hook, and ride a horse? Are you tall, trim, kind, fun, intelligent, active, creative, and honest? I am 53 (act and look 43) blonde, trim, outgoing and seeking LTR with someone special. #1459 (04/16)

HOW ABOUT IT! I like to dance, go out to dinner, go on Sunday rides and good conversation. Do you? If so please call or write. No drinkers, drugs or smokers please. #1551 Personal Advertiser #865, P.O. Box 1238, Portland, ME 04104 (04/23)

LOVE OF ALL THINGS LATINO. Dance, music, culture, language. Vivacious 40y.o. SWF, looking for well educated, partner who dances, likes to go out and can engage in intelligent conversation. N/S, L/D. Progressive spiritual world-view a must. #1527 (04/23)

LOVELY IN PORTLAND MAINE! SWF, 36, 5'9", lg. build, enjoys dining, dancing, music, movies, camping & reading. Desires S/DWM, 28-45, med. to lg. build, for friendship/LTR. #1547 (04/23)

LOVE OF ALL THINGS LATINO. Dance, music, culture, language. Vivacious 40y.o. SWF, looking for well educated, partner who dances, likes to go out and can engage in intelligent conversation. N/S, L/D. Progressive spiritual world-view a must. #1527 (04/23)

I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE. You're not afraid to cry, love to laugh, are a great dad, N/S, L/D, 35-50, who takes care of you, your physical and emotional selves, values conversation and friends, and seeks a committed partnership with an outgoing, DTE, DWPF, 39, 5'8" central Maine. Serious inquiries only. #1604 (05/01)

LIKE TO READ BOOKS WITHOUT PICTURES? Play well with others? Color with in the lines? Potty trained? Shares playthings, waits his turn? Puts toys away when finished? Behaves nicely at naptime? Tall SWF, 38 says "Come play in my sandbox little boy." No whiners, crybabies, or momma's boys. #1525 (04/23)

LONELY DWF seeking Oriental or Hispanic male. Enjoys spending quiet time, cooking, walking and dancing. Call see what happens. #1589 (03/19)

MARRIED FRIENDS SAY I HAVE IT MADE so why am I in personals? Miss having someone special. 54, slim, attractive, independent professional, creative, fun, enthusiastic. #1535 (04/23)

MIDCOAST NATURE WITCH AND POET, 48, seeks crow man for shape shifting and journey toward home. #1487 (04/16)

MYSTERIOUS PISCES ESSENCE. DWPF, 52, med. build, red hair, blue eyes. Independent, mod. eccentric seeks S/DWM, 45-55 to explore the swirling eddies of the cosmos. Beard/moustache a +. #1469 (04/16)

NOT PERFECT OR GORGEOUS. I am intelligent, independent, positive, N/S, warm hearted, 42, DWF who loves travel, camping, animals, humor, learning. Seeking easygoing adventurous friend/possible partner. #1662 (05/07)

OUTDOORSY, TALL BRUNETTE. DWPF, slim, 43, 5'10", N/S, N/D. Looking for S/DWM, sensitive, caring, w/nice smile. Between 39-51 who can be creative. #1610 (05/01)

LIGHT MY FIRE... Outgoing, cultured, educated, adaptable, artistic, alternative, N/S, sincere DWF w/child, 33, 5'11", 110lbs. Enjoys skiing, running, dancing, music, travel, good conversation, good friends, SOH... You name it! #1522 (04/23)

PLAYMATE WANTED. Fit, attractive DW 50's woman seeking man who can paddle a canoe or kayak. I also like hiking, camping, walking, the beach, skiing, snowshoeing, and tennis. I'm looking for an energetic enthusiastic companion and maybe more - a person who wants to participate, not spectate. 1583 (03/19)

POWERFULLY FEMININE, QUIETLY SENSUAL, mature, educated, DWF, 48, enjoys many things (including dancing and reading) willing to try many others. Seeks S/DWM, N/S, late 30's to mid 50's with silent strength and gentle wisdom to explore the future. #1473 (04/16)

PROFESSIONAL PETIT LADY. Elegant, good-natured, fit, warm, SOH and attractive! Seek N/S professional gentleman between 48-58 for communication, theater, dance, dining, walks, possible romance Coastal area. #1533 (04/23)

RETURN TO LOVE. Are you a gentle, N/S, honest, S/DWM, 45-60? Share the spiritual journey, beach walks, cultural events, S/DWM, 45-55 to explore the swirling eddies of the cosmos. Beard/moustache a +. #1469 (04/16)

SAIL INTO SPRING with a classy, slim, 5'4" blue eyed blonde. I'm a former teacher who is adventuresome, energetic and caring. I enjoy gardening, walking, tennis, boating, dancing, candlelight dining, music and travel. I'm seeking a gentleman 54-64 who is honest, healthy & fun-loving for friendship, laughter and sharing special times. #1657 (05/07)

SEEKING SAILOR. LTR, DWPF, 1940's baby, big/green, 5'6", caring, extra SOH. Desires present/future life of sailing, family, romance, balance! Autonomously healthy, financially/emotionally secure need apply please. #1569 (04/23)

SENSE AND NONSENSE. Poised, level-headed professional SWF, 51, with brains, good judgment, and a hearty sense of the absurd. Been there, done that: there's so much more. #1478 (04/16)

SLIM, BLONDE WRITER, 35, tired of mama's boys and rehab refugees, wants to meet a S/DWM, 36-41 who teaches college (or high school) English, reads John Steinbeck, watches the So-Fi Channel, and skis Sunday River/Mount Abram. Southern Maine. #1565 (04/23)

SOUL MINING AT DUSK. A novice on court now serving Martha Stewart's head on ice while shoosh booming a volley to my green eyes. Come cycle this familiar humor on liberal minded wheels. How high a hurdle can this be? #1540 (04/23)

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